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Letter from the editor

In winter, bird-feeding becomes a favorite past-time of birders who want to enjoy some avian action from the comfort of their warm homes. It seems fitting in this season of good will and winter bird-feeding to mention some of our supporters who operate bird-feeding supply stores. These people provide us with the information we need to choose the right foods for birds. They stock the suet, sunflower hearts, bath heaters, and other items we need to make our backyards mini-nature preserves. They offer workshops and free bird walks to help beginners enjoy avian pursuits - and that in turn, gets more people hooked on birds and on conservation.

Many local bird feeding stores have supported IOS over the years, not just by selling *Meadowlark*, right next to glossy, national birding magazines and giving us the profits, but also by making extra donations to IOS and getting involved with the magazine and the organization. Special thanks go to Dean Bolton and Helen Taylor, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Highland Park, long-time contributors who have given IOS discounts on purchased items. Dean also wrote an article for *Meadowlark*. Phil Haebler, owner of the Upstart Crow in Evanston, is an IOS Board Member and our recording secretary. He also makes extra contributions and donations. Bob Sadek of Wild Bird Feeding store in Libertyville, has made donations to a local newspaper sponsoring a contest on environment issues, and offers wonderful support for IOS, its members, and those involved with the magazine. These are just some of the bird-feeding and supply stores who have contributed to IOS; I apologize for not having the space to mention them all.

Feed the birds this winter, and support your local bird-feeding stores, especially the folks who contribute to IOS and in turn, contribute to the scientific and recreational pursuit of birding and conservation in Illinois.

A special note of gratitude: After five years at the helm, Eric Walters is stepping down from the presidency. We owe a debt of thanks to the man whose vision helped bring IOS to where it is today. Luckily for us, Eric promises to remain involved with IOS, contributing to *Meadowlark* and working on other projects. Please let Eric know how much you appreciate his leadership and volunteer spirit these past five years.

Sheryl DeVore

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President's Message

After five years, I'm writing my final president's message. It's time to hand the reins over to another who will continue the progress of the Illinois Ornithological Society. I've had a mountaintop view of the birth, rise, and growth of the IOS and one thing I can say, it's been exhilarating! I've enjoyed investing my time into this organization and the people representing it. I feel my time spent has been rewarded in full - just with the satisfaction of seeing the quality of our journal as well as our continuing growth in membership. I expect great things will continue into the future.

I'll still be actively involved in IOS, desiring greatly to realize a goal we had early on to publish books such as an Illinois Birding Hotspots guide as well as update Steve Mlodinow's, "Chicago Area Birds."

But for IOS as a whole, it's time for fresh energy, vision, and leadership. With the capable leaders currently representing IOS, it's easy to have confidence in their ability to take the next beneficial step forward. The future looks bright indeed for the IOS!

So, until we next meet in the field, good birding to you!

Eric Walters

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About Our Cover:
The Townsend's Solitaire was recorded on the 1995/1996 Christmas Bird Count and wintered near Waukegan, Illinois. See pages 93 and 108 for details. Drawing by Denis Kania. (708) 388-0285.

The Critical Role of Habitat
in the Breeding and Migratory Success of Wetland Birds

By William Moskoff

By now, few in the birding community are unaware of the plight of the neotropical songbirds that breed in North America. What may not be as well understood is how perilous the situation is for wetland birds. Between 1780 and 1980, the amount of wetlands in the continental United States fell by about 53 percent. Illinois has experienced an even more dramatic decline: no more than about 15 percent of the wetlands that existed in the presettlement period remain today (Dahl 1990). Much more than half of the original prairie pothole wetlands, the shallow marshlike ponds found in the Dakotas and central Canada, have been lost. Some 50 to 80 percent of the main game species on the continent breed in these areas (Mitsch and Gosselink 1993). The federal government considers a number of wetlands endangered because of the overall 85 to 98 percent decline in this ecosystem. Some examples include wetlands (all types combined) in south-central California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio; freshwater marsh and coastal salt marsh in southern California, including seasonal wetlands of San Francisco Bay; saline wetlands in eastern Nebraska; and mountain bogs in Tennessee and North Carolina (Noss, LaRoe, and Scott 1995).

Four general reasons explain why the amount of wetlands in the U.S. has declined so dramatically: the conversion of wetlands to agricultural uses; urban development; the conversion of wetlands to deep water habitats; and a catchall category of other types of conversions including clear-cutting and draining live-forested wetlands (Johnston 1994). In other words, the loss of habitat is a threat of great proportions to wetland bird species.

This paper focuses on the impact of declining wetlands on birds, both migratory species that use wetlands as a stopover point or staging area and those species that use wetlands as a breeding area. It will be argued that wetland complexes rather than a single wetland are critical to birds and that serious implications arise when these complexes disappear or are fragmented. In addition, it will be shown that wetland size and proximity to other wetland areas are crucial to reproduction and migration.

Wetland Definition

While the definition of a wetland is a matter of controversy, this ecosystem has a number of distinguishing properties: Wetlands frequently have unique soil conditions that distinguish them from uplands. Wet-tolerant vegetation and standing water exists (Mitsch and Gosselink 1993). Wetlands are also dynamic; that is, seasonal and annual precipitation and flooding change the vegetation, and the vegetation determines the bird life. Wetlands that are not dynamic cease to be marshes and tend to become like lakes (Payne 1992). A marsh is a lowland area that is frequently or always inundated with water. It is dominated by herbaceous vegetation and seldom has any woody plants). While many terms describe various wetlands, including bog, bottomland, fen, marsh, muskeg, peatland, pothole, slough, swamp, wet meadow, and wet prairie, here I focus on marshes and potholes.

Birds use wetlands for breeding, as migratory stopover points, and as non-breeding residences in the summer and winter (Weller 1994). Wetlands satisfy two major requirements for birds—they supply food and offer protection from predators. Freshwater marshes experience insect hatches quite often, and saltwater marshes have intermittent mosquito hatches and twice-daily replenished food supplies when the tides invade the marshes and fish and invertebrates are deposited. Marshes offer protection from the mammalian predation that accounts for so much of the loss of bird nests on land (Burger 1985).

The most striking fact about wetland bird species is how many of them have declined in number, some to a startling degree. Table 1 presents data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) for selected wetland species whose numbers have declined. The data show long-term (1966-1993) and short-term (1984-1993) population trends. Of the 24 species on the list, 11 of them have experienced statistically significant declines since 1984.

The Wilson's Phalarope, is a shorebird whose numbers are dramatically declining. Drawing by Karen Becker.

Habitat Requirements

Three dimensions exist regarding wetland birds' habitat requirements. They need different kinds of habitat for different functions at different times of the year, they often have different habitat requirements within a given season, and different species have differing habitat requirements. In the prairie pothole region, birds can be grouped by the size of wetland that they require for reproductive success. Table 2 depicts the strikingly different habitat requirements of the various species.

Habitat diversity is critical to birds breeding in wetlands. First, birds may need different types of wetlands in the same general area. Researchers studying Mallards in the St. Lawrence River Valley from 1990 through 1992, found that female Mallards (*Anas platyrhyncos*) spent most of their time breeding in forested-live wetlands (40 percent) but spent most of their postbreeding time in forested-dead wetlands (35 percent) in the general vicinity of their breeding grounds (Losito and Baldassarre 1995). Evidence from several studies shows that individual Mallards use several wetlands during the breeding season. The average number of wetlands used by Mallards in the St. Lawrence River Valley was 4.1; in a forested wetlands study in Minnesota it was 8.6 (Gilmer et al. 1975) and among prairie nesters in North Dakota the average number of wetlands used was 15 (Dwyer et al. 1979). These results imply that conservation requires protection of wetland complexes rather than a single wetlands type.

Foraging requirements has a lot to do with the need for different kinds of wetlands. For example, breeding ducks eat mainly animal food, but on their wintering grounds they mostly consume vegetable matter (Fredrickson 1985). Thus, while ducks can be flexible in habitat choice, from a conservation perspective, it appears that different elements of wetland complexes may be consequential during different parts of the year.

Wetland Size and Isolation

Wetland size and size diversity are interlinked variables for birds. Mallards use different size wetlands during the reproductive cycle, small basins during the breeding season and larger ones during the postbreeding period (Losito and Baldassarre 1995). The size of marshes is perhaps the single most important determinant of species richness, or the number of species in an area. It requires somewhere between 236 ha (Brown and Dinsmore 1986) and 379 ha (McCoy 1983) to support 24 species. The smallest number of species in Iowa was found in marshes smaller than 5 ha (Brown and Dinsmore 1986). It is believed that more species are found on larger areas because of the wider diversity of habitats (Lack 1969).

In a study of 30 Iowa prairie marshes, after marsh size, isolation, or the distance of one marsh from another, was the second most important determinant of species richness

(Brown and Dinsmore 1986). Specifically, the amount of marshland within 5 km of each site was a key determinant of the number of species to be found in a marsh. Marshes that were significantly isolated from each other did not have the species richness of wetland complexes where the marshes were closer together, even when the isolated marshes were twice the size of the complexes.

Craig and Beal (1992) studied one large and several small marsh habitats encompassing the four principal marsh types along the Connecticut River in order to assess their significance in maintaining marsh bird populations. They found a difference in the behavior of breeding birds and users, those species that use the marshes for foraging and resting. Breeder richness (the number of species breeding in the marshes) was directly related to area and inversely related to water cover and habitat heterogeneity. For users, the most significant variables were marsh proximity, water cover, and vegetation heterogeneity. For users, the importance of marsh proximity has to do with the fact that a number of species, e.g. waders, gulls, and terns, who forage on ephemeral prey, need to roam between a number of habitats to meet their needs. Users preferred open water because they were good foraging sites. Thus, habitat heterogeneity was critical for users and consequently marsh proximity became important.

A study of the activity budgets of wintering Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) in Louisiana confirms the consequences of wetland habitat diversity (Rave and Baldassarre 1989). About half of all the Green-winged Teal winter in the U.S. on coastal wetlands in Louisiana. The species behaves differently depending on whether it winters in agricultural habitats as it does in Texas or is in natural habitats, as in Louisiana. There are six major habitats used by the teal in Louisiana and their four main activities, feeding, resting, locomoting, and preening were each concentrated in different habitats.

The absence of the proper mix of wetlands can be devastating to the breeding ecology and hence the reproductive rates of a species. White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*), which breed in coastal South Carolina, require the presence of freshwater wetlands as a source of crayfish for their nestlings (Bildstein et al. 1990). During dry years, when the inland freshwater wetlands do not yield crayfish, adult White Ibises bring back salt-water based fiddler crabs for their young who subsequently die from the excessive salt loading. If substantial quanti-

Table 1. Population Trends of Selected Wetland Birds in North America

	Population Change (percent change)	
SPECIES	**1966-1993**	**1984-1993**
Pied-billed Grebe	-41.3*	-48.6*
Anhinga	-39.6	-54.1*
American Bittern	-38.9*	-25.5*
Little Blue Heron	-29.9	- 17.5
Green Heron	- 7.6	- 9.8
Green-winged Teal	-25.5	-20.5
American Black Duck	-27.1	- 5.5
Mottled Duck	-78.8*	-46.3
Northern Pintail	-76.4*	-24.8
Blue-winged Teal	-16.8	-31.5*
American Wigeon	-11.3	-20.0
Canvasback	-28.6	-62.1*

	Population Change (percent change)	
SPECIES	**1966-1993**	**1984-1993**
Common Goldeneye	-14.6	26.3
Virginia Rail	- 2.1	-10.1*
Sora	-44.4*	-29.2*
Greater Yellowlegs	31.9	-17.5
Lesser Yellowlegs	-72.9*	-62.4*
Willet	-15.2	-14.1
Long-billed Curlew	-36.5	-46.4*
Wilson's Phalarope	- 2.1	-41.0*
Royal Tern	-31.0	- 8.1
Common Tern	- 5.4	-67.0*
Least Tern	-69.4	-14.5
Black Tern	-71.6*	- 8.8

Source: Price, Droege, and Price (1995)
* = Statistically significant declines.

ties of crayfish are not available, White Ibises do not breed successfully. Reproductive success of the White Ibis requires the existence of inland wetlands as well as saltwater breeding areas.

Wetland disturbance also has an adverse effect on species richness and density. The evidence from a study carried out in six small Connecticut wetlands during eight seasons showed that both species richness and density were lower on the two most disturbed sites for both marsh species—Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) and Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), and thicket species-Song Sparrow (*M. melodia*), American Goldfinch *(Carduelis tristis*), and Common Yellowthroat *(Geothlypis trichas*) (Craig and Barclay 1992).

Shorebirds

Shorebirds are extremely vulnerable to habitat changes. Wetlands are a critical element in the habitat of the 15 temperate breeding shorebird species in western North America, and are important to 28 of the 35 shorebirds that winter in that region of the country (Page and Gill 1994). The prairie pothole losses in South and North Dakota and the dramatic decline west of the Rockies, especially in California where 91 percent of the wetlands have disappeared, have been presumed to have had a significant impact on shorebird populations (Page and Gill 1994). Of the remaining wetlands, many have declined in quality because of toxic chemicals or the construction

Table 2. Groups of Prairie Pothole Birds by Habitat Requirement

Group	Definition	Species
Area Sesitive Birds	Birds with large area requirements--generally complexes of wetlands and associated grasslands At least 100 acres of wetland and 640 acres of adjacent land in permanent cover	Trumpeter Swan, Willet Whooping Crane, Sandhill Crane Long-billed Curlew, Marbeled Godwit, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl
Open Water Birds	Birds that require large, semipermanent wetlands or lakes. Many of the birds are colonial waterbirds or fish-eating species Wetland size greater than 40 arces	All 5 grebe spp. American White Pelican, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Least Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Redhead Canvasback, Ruddy Duck Ring-necked Duck, Common Loon, Franklin's Gull, Forster's Tern, Black Tern
Marsh Generalists	Birds that can use smaller wetlands and require some robust emergent vegetation. At least patches of shallow emergent and deep emergent vegetation.	American Coot, Common Moorhen, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird
Secretive Birds	Secretive birds of shallow marshes including birds that require sedge meadows and wet prairie.	American Bittern, Least Bittern, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Wilson's Phalarope, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, LeConte's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat
Dabbling Ducks and Geese	Dabbling ducks and geese often require several kinds of marshes to complete life stages.	Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler

Source: Galatowitsch and van der Valk (1994)

of power lines that have increased shorebird deaths (Page and Gill 1994).

Many shorebird species travel great distances between their breeding grounds in the Arctic and their wintering grounds in Central and South America. Some of these species use a so-called "jumping" strategy, flying great distances that are broken by only a few stops. This strategy is risky because if food is unavailable at the few critical stopover points or if adverse winds impede travel, the birds could fail to reach their destination. An alternative is the so-called "hopping" strategy where shorebirds fly shorter distances and concomitantly make more stops (Piersma 1987). The latter migration strategy would appear to require less energy and be safer because of the reliance on many stopping points. But one of the byproducts of the destruction of wetlands in the Great Plains is that there are fewer stopover points available to migratory shorebirds and an increased risk for those species that require frequent stopovers. A study of the Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) and the White-rumped Sandpiper (*C. fuscicollis*) at the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Kansas found that they cannot reach their breeding grounds in one jump. Given their widely differing levels of fat deposition and their flight speed, many can only make short or medium flights until the next required stopover point (Skagen and Knopf 1994). The conservation implications are clear. A sufficient number of wetland habitats have to be maintained so that it is possible to make a number of intermediate stopovers between major stopover points. In many cases, the availability of resources at any given wetland, even one as prominent as Cheyenne Bottom Wildlife Management Area (WMA), is not sufficiently predictable that shorebirds can necessarily rely upon them.

Mitigating Wetland Destruction

We know what the underlying causes of wetland destruction are and we know the implications of wetland disappearance. What can be done to mitigate this process and will it work? Let us first look at the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project, located about 40 miles north of the Chicago Loop in Lake County, Illinois. It involves restoring a stretch of a river floodplain and developing a series of experimental wetlands basins. There are several basins, each about 2-3 ha using hydrologic controls with a system of pumps. The experimental wetlands were located on land that had initially been drained for agriculture, then was mined for sand and gravel, and then abandoned. The original wetlands were basically destroyed and the vegetation gone. The fundamental idea was to analyze the biological response of wetlands when the hydrologic regime was manipulated (Hickman and Mosca 1991). In 1985, before the restoration, 37 species occupied territories, including only three species of migratory waterfowl. By 1990, after restoration, 48 species occupied territories, including 15 waterfowl species. As a definitive measure of the improved quality of the wetlands, the number of obligate marsh nesting species rose from 8 to 17 in these same two years (Hickman and Mosca 1991). As of September 1, 1995, there have been 184 species counted since restoration, including 13 state endangered and 7 state threatened species. Before restoration, no state endangered or threatened species were seen at the site (S. Hickman, pers. comm.).

But the return of wildlife to a wetland once diminished in size or quality is not an automatic thing. The evidence elsewhere is less positive about the virtues of restoration for birds. In the southern prairie pothole region of northern Iowa there have been mixed results. Of the 54 breeding birds in the region, 22 have been found nesting in restored wetlands, but in those wetlands where the amount of vegetation is sparse, the numbers of nesting individuals is likewise not abundant (Delphey and Dinsmore 1993).

Prairie wetlands are not only important for waterfowl, but for other species as well. A study in South Dakota of 13 bird species other than waterfowl examined their differential use of natural wetlands and man-made wetlands (Weber, Vohs, and Flake 1982). The 13 target species all used

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natural wetlands more frequently than man-made wetlands.

In a number of places minelands have been restored as wetlands with mixed success. In one study, while the number of species in the reclaimed wetlands was as high as in natural wetlands, there were fewer guilds (e.g. dabblers, waders, divers) because of the relative absence of aquatic feeders (Lacki et al. 1991). A guild is a group of species that share a resource in similar ways.

Recently, there has been cause for hope about the waterfowl population in the United States. Some 83 million ducks migrated south in the fall of 1995, 12 million more than 1994 and 24 million more than 1993, in part because of governmental influence in restoring prairie potholes, in part because of substantial rain in the prairies (Stevens 1995).

Conclusion

Many reasons exist for the dramatic decline of wetland bird populations in North America. Not surprisingly, the basic cause is habitat disappearance. In the case of wetland birds, the concept of "habitat" has a special meaning and implies specific kinds of management policies. The proper habitat is in most instances a complex of wetlands playing multiple roles. Proper habitat also means the correct size of a wetland and individual wetlands sufficiently close to one another to meet the complicated needs of a species. Restoration management of wetlands is therefore a complicated task, although not without the possibility of success.

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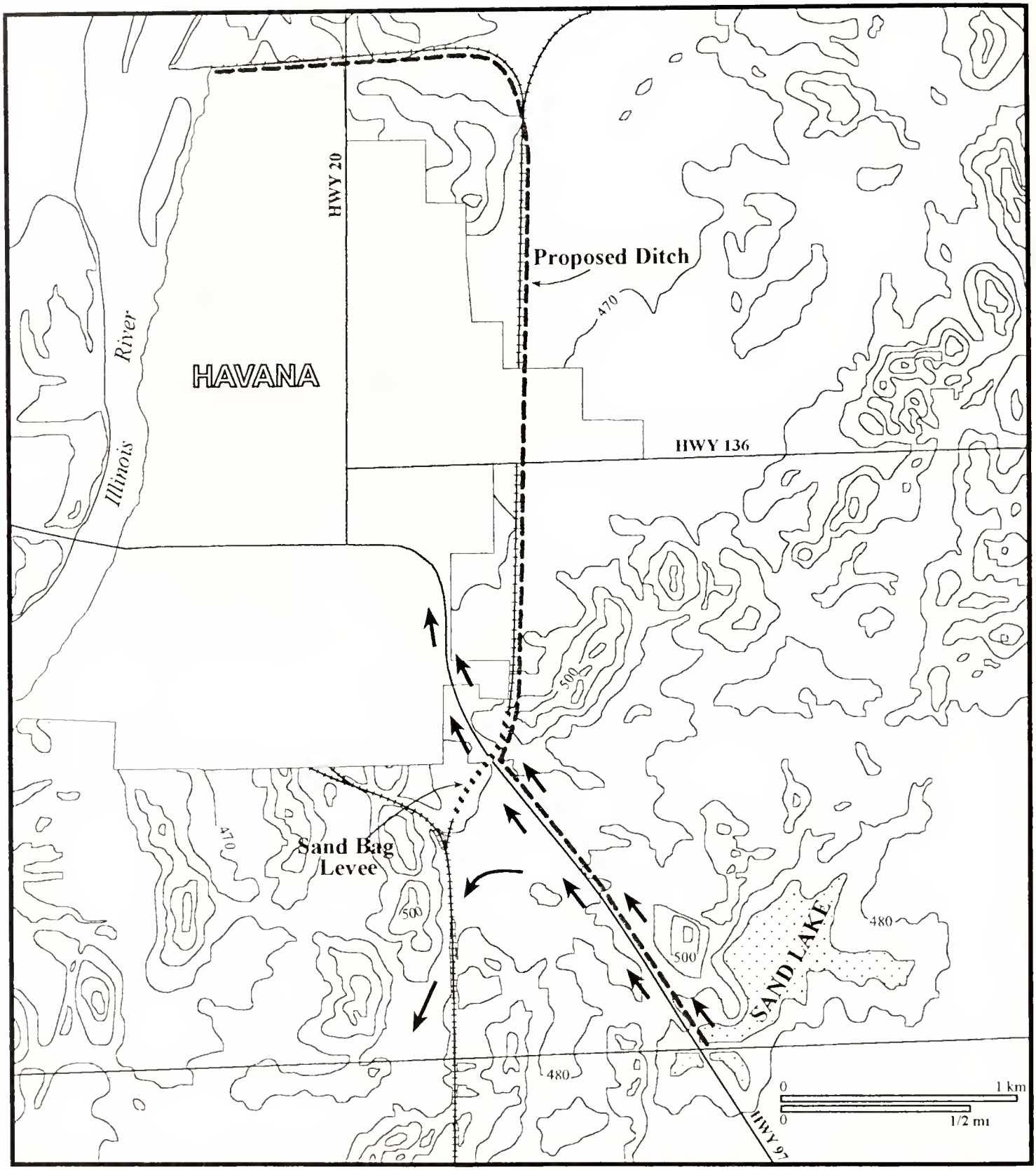


Figure 1.

Map showing Sand Lake and Havana in Mason County, Illinois. Arrows show direction of water flow from Sand Lake into Havana during 1993 flood; short diagonal lines indicate location of sand bag levee along railroad to stop water flow; heavy dashed line indicates proposed location of ditch to drain wetland. Adapted from maps prepared by Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. and U.S.G.S. Havana Quadrangle (1948, topographic, 7.5 min.). Cartographer: Jill Freund Thomas.

The Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Birds of Sand Lake,

an Unusual Ephemeral Wetland in West-Central Illinois

By Lauren E. Brown and Angella K. Moorehouse

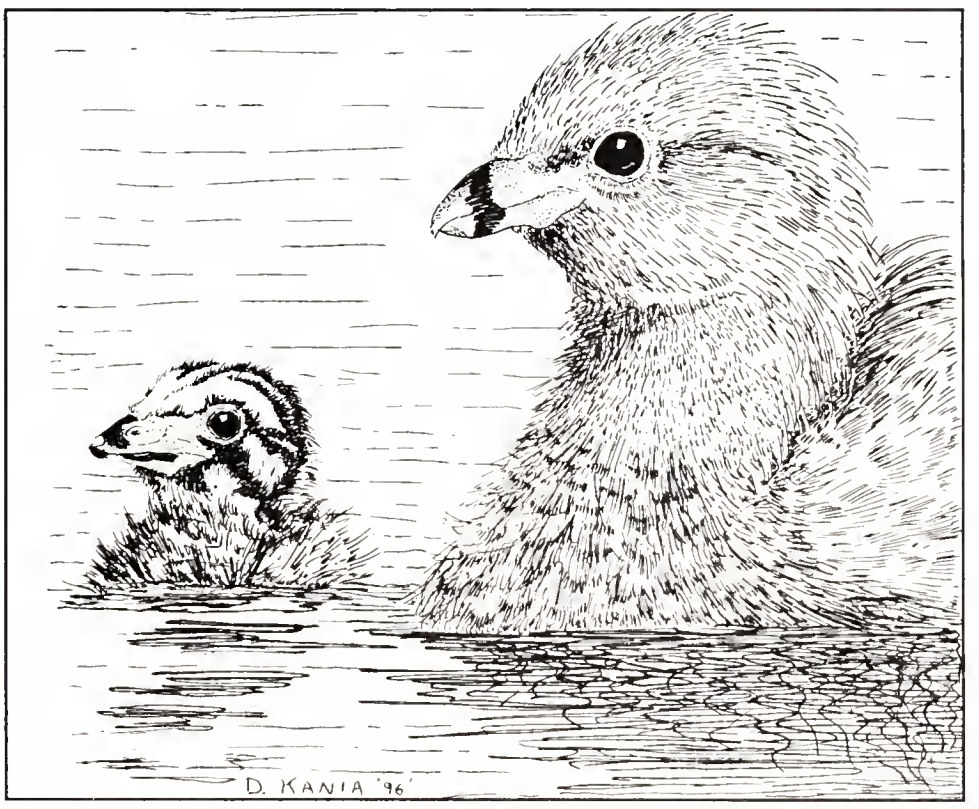
One of the best-kept secrets of central Illinois birders is the abundant and diverse avifauna of Sand Lake in Mason County, west-central Illinois. This wetland has long been a stopping point for birders on their way to Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge. High waters at Sand Lake in 1993-1994 resulted in even more attention being given to the avifauna. This paper presents the most detailed information available on the avifauna of the wetland. Of particular significance is the unusually high number (n = 15) of endangered and threatened bird species that utilize the wetland at various times of the year. Furthermore, recent threats by humans to drain (and hence destroy) the wetland add some urgency to the communication of this information to persons concerned about the conservation of avifaunas and their habitats.

The Wetland Environment

Sand Lake is located about one mile (1.6 km) southeast of Havana in Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18, T.21N., R.8W., Havana Township, Mason County (Fig. 1). The wetland is on the Manito Terrace which is composed of highly erosional, fine to medium sand and gravel (Labotka and Hester, 1971). The landscape is rather flat but low dunes occur to the southwest and northwest of the wetland. The underlying aquifer is composed of Sankoty Sand (Kansan) and overlying outwash of Wisconsinan sand and gravel (Walker et al., 1965). The water table in the area is rather high and heavy rains result in flooding and expansion of Sand Lake well beyond its usual size. When the water table is low (e.g., late summer) or in periods of drought (e.g., the late 1980s), Sand Lake becomes nearly or completely dry. Rodgers' (1978) study of the presettlement vegetation (ca. 1823) of Mason County indicated that the area around Sand Lake was prairie.

The Avifauna

The keen interest of birders and professional ornithologists has resulted in more being known about the birds of Sand Lake than any other group of organisms. Table 1 presents a list of the 15 endangered and threatened bird species which have been observed using the wetlands. Of those, nesting and/or young have been observed for the Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), King Rail



The state-threatened Pied-billed Grebe has nested at Sand Lake in Mason County. Drawing by Denis Kania.

(Rallus elegans), and Common Moorhen *(Gallinula chloropus)*. Federally endangered species are listed in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species (1993); consult Herkert (1991, 1992, 1994, 1995) and Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (1994) for the most recent lists of endangered and threatened birds and other organisms for Illinois. Six species of birds observed at Sand Lake are, according to Bohlen (1989), rarely or very rarely seen in Illinois. These include: White Ibis *(Eudocimus albus)*, Glossy Ibis *(Plegadis falcinellus)*, White-Faced Ibis *(Plegadis chihi)*, Black-Necked Stilt *(Himantopus, mexicanus)*, Marbled Godwit *(Limosa fedoa)*, and Ruff *(Philomachus pugnax)*.

Other bird species seen at the wetland are listed in Table 2. The total of 95 species of birds seen is based on our observations and those of various other individuals with ornithological expertise (see *Acknowledgments*), as well as some species listed in Newman (1996). Most sightings were made from 1993-1995. Undoubtedly there are additional species which utilize the wetland, and thus these lists are not to be considered complete.

The spring migration, when the wetland is at a high water stage, is particularly impressive as many thousands of waterfowl can be observed on a single visit. During the summer, the slow-moving Common Moorhen with its beautiful orange-red bill, and the Pied-billed Grebe with chicks riding on its back can frequently be seen. Ten broods of Pied-billed Grebes were observed in the summer of 1994 by J. Herkert (pers. comm.). In the late morning of 27 June 1995, L.E. Brown was standing knee-deep in water in a tall thicket of cattails making clicking sounds in hopes of stimulating the declining northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*) to call. Soon he heard a particularly loud click and turned to see that it was made by a Yellow-headed Blackbird perched about 3 m away. At many times of the year an abundance of shorebirds can also be seen. During 1994, a heron rookery consisting of approximately 50 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) nests was observed in a clump of willow trees along the shoreline. Some birds, usually individuals or pairs, have been seen at the wetland at unusual times of the year. For example, a Canvasback *(Aythya valisineria)* and a Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens)* were seen in May, while Ruddy Ducks *(Oxyura jamaicensis)* have been observed as early as July.

Three other non-bird species deserve mention. The Illinois chorus frog *(Pseudacris streckeri illinoensis)*, a state-threatened species, forms relatively large breeding choruses at the wetland in early spring (Brown, 1986; Brown and Cima, in press). Hall's bulrush *(Scirpus hallii)*, a state-endangered plant, is also quite common at the wetland. Recently, Schwegman (1996) reported another state-endangered plant, the weak bulrush (*Scirpus purshianus*) at Sand Lake.

Human Threats

Sand Lake or portions of it have been farmed when water has been reduced or lacking. However, farming has been intermittent and appears to have been rather nonintrusive, as the wetland vegetation aggressively rejuvenated when flooding re-occurred.

More serious threats are the major flood events which occur at approximately 20-40 year intervals (Environmental Science and Engineering, 1993a, 1993b). The most severe flood was in 1993 which resulted in the appearance of over 171 groundwater lakes in Mason County including Sand Lake (Clark, 1995). Water flowed from Sand Lake northwesterly toward Havana along the drainage ditches bordering Illinois State Highway 97 (Fig. 1, page 88). Much of southeastern Havana was soon inundated, resulting in considerable property damage and human hardship. Residents were quick to blame Sand Lake as the source of their problems, and there was strong pressure to drain the lake. However, the wetland expansion was merely a symptom of the

TABLE 1. Endangered and threatened birds observed at Sand Lake, Mason County, IL

American Bittern *(Botaurus lentiginosus)* SE
Swainson's Hawk *(Buteo swainsoni)* SE
Great Egret *(Casmerodius albus)* ST
Piping Plover *(Charadrius melodus)* SFE
Black Tern *(Chlidonias niger)* SE
Little Blue Heron *(Egretta caerulea)* SE
Common Moorhen *(Gallinula chloropus)* ST
Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* SFE
Loggerhead Shrike *(Lanius ludovicianus)* ST
Black-crowned Night-Heron *(Nycticorax nycticorax)* SE
Wilson's Phalarope *(Phalaropus tricolor)* SE
Pied-billed Grebe *(Podilymbus podiceps)* ST
King Rail *(Rallus elegans) ST*
Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* SE
Yellow-headed Blackbird *(Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus)* (SE)
SE denotes state-endangered
SFE denotes federally and state-endangered
ST denotes state-threatened

high water table, not a cause of the flooding.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. of Peoria was contracted to give assistance in resolving the problem (Environmental Science and Engineering, 1993a, 1993b). Three short-term options (sand bagging, pumping, ditching) were undertaken, and these measures plus evaporation eventually provided relief to the flooding problem in the city. Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (1993b) identified various long-term options which might prevent future flooding. The most popular of these among Havana citizens is a drainage ditch which would extend north from Sand Lake along the east side of the city and then westward into the Illinois River (Fig. 1, page 88). However, W. Ingram, a water resources engineer employed by Environmental Science and Engineering, has indicated that the ditch would not alleviate flooding problems unrelated to Sand Lake (Williams 1993). Nonetheless, local citizens continued to blame Sand Lake, and sought federal funding ($1.3 million) for construction of the ditch. Fortunately, the application was unsuccessful. However, citizen concerns remain high and planning continues.

Conclusions

Brown and Cima (in press) discussed evidence that suggests Sand Lake is a nearly pristine wetland. A few other wetlands similar to Sand Lake have been discovered in Mason County by W. McClain (personal comm.). In presettlement times this type of ephemeral wetland was probably much more common in the sand prairies along the Illinois River, but they disappeared as the land was tiled and ditched for farming.

Few other locations in Illinois are utilized by as many endangered and threatened species (n = 18, the majority being birds) as Sand Lake.

TABLE 2. Other birds observed at Sand Lake, Mason County, IL.

Great Blue Heron	Ruddy Duck	Herring Gull
Cattle Egret	Northern Harrier	Mourning Dove
Green Heron	American Kestrel	Horned Lark
Trumpeter Swan	Ring-necked Pheasant	Purple Martin
Snow Goose*	Sora	Tree Swallow
Canada Goose*	American Coot*	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Graylag Goose	Black-Bellied Plover	Barn Swallow
(European, Domestic,	Killdeer	Blue Jay
Embden, Toulouse)	Greater Yellowlegs	American Crow
Wood Duck	Lesser Yellowlegs	Sedge Wren
Green-winged Teal*	Solitary Sandpiper	Marsh Wren
American Black Duck	Willet	American Robin
Mallard*	Spotted Sandpiper	Northern Cardinal
Northern Pintail*	Sanderling	Blue Grosbeak
Blue-winged Teal*	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Rufous-sided Towhee
Northern Shoveler*	Least Sandpiper	Savannah Sparrow
Gadwall*	White-rumped Sandpiper	Song Sparrow
American Wigeon	Pectoral Sandpiper	White-crowned Sparrow
Canvasback*	Dunlin	Harris' Sparrow
Redhead*	Stilt Sandpiper	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-necked Duck*	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Eastern Meadowlark
Lesser Scaup*	Short-billed Dowitcher	Rusty Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Long-billed Dowitcher	Common Grackle
Bufflehead	Common Snipe	Northern Oriole
Hooded Merganser	Ring-billed Gull	House Sparrow
Common Merganser		

* Indicates particularly large numbers (estimated at ca. 2000 or more) on a single date. Bohlen (1989) said the Trumpeter Swan was extirpated in Illinois. However, there have been recent reintroductions of this species in Wisconsin, and it is now occasional or uncommon in Illinois (J. Herkert, pers. comm.).

This is especially true in the central part of the state where loss of high quality wetlands has been severe.

Sand Lake is worthy of preservation because, as a high quality wetland, it can serve as a model for the restoration of other breeding habitats for endangered and threatened bird species within the Illinois sand prairies and elsewhere. Unfortunately, there still remains the potentiality of drainage (= destruction) of the wetland. When another flood occurs (and that is only a matter of time), it is likely that local citizens will exert strong political pressure to initiate relief action which may well involve the drainage of Sand Lake. Hopefully, energetic activism by ornithologists and birders as well as other environmentalists will prevent this destruction from occurring.

Acknowledgments

We thank F. Bellrose, D. Birkenholz, R. Bjorklund, J. Cima, H. Gasdorf, D. Glosser, and J. Herkert for providing information on the birds of Sand Lake; J. Herkert, W. Ingram, and W. McClain for discussion; J. Cima for field assistance; A. Capparella for bibliographic assistance; J. Thomas for preparing Fig. 1; and D. Birkenholz, J. Brown, J. Herkert, and E. Mockford for critically reading the manuscript.

Editor's Note: *The Illinois Audubon Society has been working to purchase 90 acres of the Sand Lake wetland area (65 acres of ephemeral wetland and 25 acres of adjacent sand upland). Please contact IAS for more information at (217) 446-5085 in Danville, IL.*

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The 1995 Illinois Christmas Bird Count

by David B. Johnson and Alan F. Stokie

Three major cold fronts beginning in early November pushed many birds, particularly waterbirds, out of Illinois before the 1995 Christmas Bird Count period (16 Dec. 1995 through 2 Jan. 1996). Snow covered most of northeastern Illinois and temperatures were near normal. Eighty-seven percent of the counts had frozen water; only large bodies of water such as Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River remained open.

The mean low temperature was 25 degrees F; the mean high was 37 degrees F. Some observers said the early cold weather concentrated birds at minimal open water areas and feeding stations while others thought the cold weather forced out the waterbirds and less hardy landbirds.

The 1995 CBC data encompass both scenarios; waterbirds were recorded in fewer numbers than the record-breaking numbers of the 1994 CBC season (Johnson and Stokie 1995) while rarities were driven to feeders and nurseries at least in northern Illinois. The 1995 CBC season will also be remembered as the best winter invasion of Northern Shrikes, even surpassing the 1994 CBC season.

Observers set 9 new all-time state high counts (and tied 2) for individuals recorded within a count circle. Results from 60 counts included 147 species (13 species less than the 1994 CBC season). No count recorded more than 100 species but Rend Lake which had over 100 species for the past three years recorded the highest species total of 98; in fact, Rend Lake was the only count to record 90 or more species. Only 10 other counts recorded 80 or more species. Rend Lake also had the highest number of individuals, 2,108,814. Fermilab-Batavia once again took top honors for fielding the highest number of observers in the state, 88. (See Table 1, page 97).

Townsend's Solitaire. 24 Nov. 1995. Lyons Woods Forest Preserve, Lake Co. This bird was recorded on the Christmas Bird Count. Photo by David B. Johnson

Regularly Occurring Species

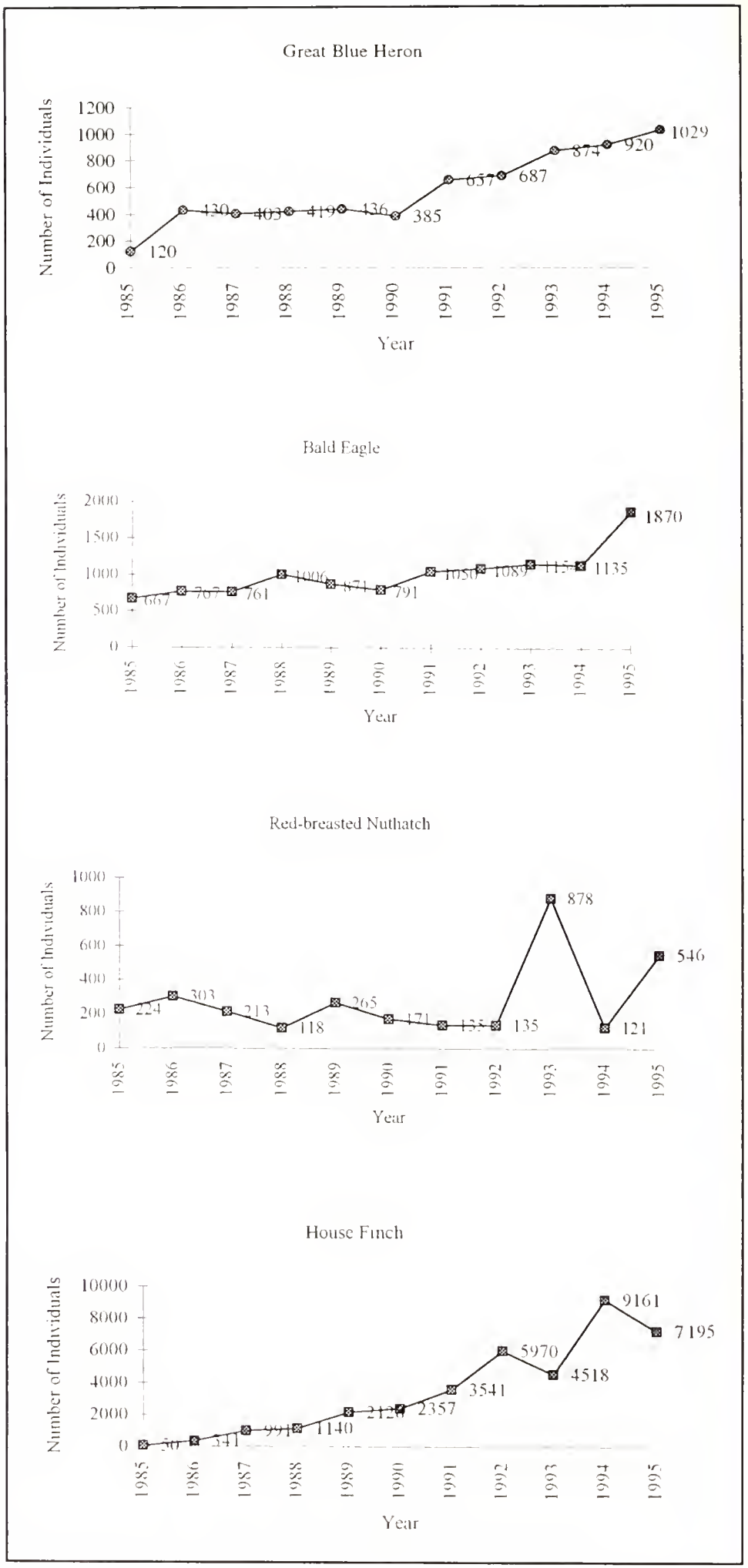
Only two Common Loons were reported, one at Morris-Wilmington, (see photograph in Field Notes section of this issue) and one at Bird Haven. Pied-billed Grebe numbers seemed above average, 162 in 18 count circles, including the impressive count of 25 individuals at Morris-Wilmington. In contrast, only 12 Horned Grebes in 3 count circles were recorded. Great Blue Herons are being recorded in higher numbers, 1029 individuals in 48 count circles (see histogram). Except for the high count of Mute Swans at Calumet City-Sand Ridge, observers counted hardly any swan species. No Tundra Swans were recorded and Clinton Lake had the only re-introduced Trumpeter Swans. Several compilers mentioned all-time high counts for Canada Geese with 19,867 and 31,586 individuals recorded at Barrington and Fermilab-Batavia, respectively. While most waterfowl were low in numbers, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye,

and Red-breasted Merganser numbers increased compared with the 1994 CBC season. Compilers also mentioned record high numbers of Red-tailed Hawks (see Table 2). Wild Turkeys are being recorded with greater frequency along the Illinois and Rock rivers. The Illini and Rockford counts reported record high numbers, 90 and 78, respectively.

This was the CBC season for owls. Barrington recorded a high count of 23 Long-eared Owls; Fermilab-Batavia followed with 22 individuals, and 13 were at Thorn Creek-Park Forest. Eighty-seven Long-eared Owls were recorded in 18 count circles. Forty-nine Short-eared Owls were recorded in 16 count circles. Kishwaukee detected a record three Northern Saw-whet Owls. Only 3 other central Illinois counts recorded single saw-whets, Princeton-Cordova, Middle Fork River Valley, and Forest Glen Preserve.

Red-headed Woodpecker numbers were down (929 compared with 1677 last CBC season) yet Blue Jay numbers were up this year (8751 vs. 8254 last CBC season). Perhaps jays were better detected at feeding stations. Red-breasted Nuthatches rebounded after last year's paltry numbers, 546 (in 49 count circles) (see histogram). Compilers reported record counts for this nuthatch.

Compilers also noted that Loggerhead Shrike numbers were down, 42 individuals in 11 count circles compared with 85 individuals in 15 count circles in 1994. House Finch numbers continue to increase; Rockford had a record 698 birds and Fermilab-Batavia had 303, however statewide numbers seem to have leveled (see histogram). Finally, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow appears to be moving right up the western Illinois river valleys and is being detected as far north as Van Patten and Western Mercer. Northern count observers along the Mississippi, Rock, and Illi-



nois river valleys should be on the lookout to further document this species' apparent expansion.

Rarities

The top rarity was Waukegan's **Townsend's Solitaire** (see seasonal highlights in this issue) and Kishwaukee's count period solitaire (see *Meadowlark 5:2* for details) both appearing at old nurseries converted into forest preserves. A close second goes to McHenry's **Varied Thrush** at a Crystal Lake feeding station (see seasonal highlights in this issue). Four American White Pelicans were at Pere Marquette. A Great Egret was recorded at Horseshoe Lake; solitary Ross' Geese appeared at Rend Lake and Pere Marquette; a Harlequin Duck was in the surf off Lake Michigan at Evanston; Merlins were at Rockford, Springfield, Middle Fork River Valley, and Warbluff Valley. Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Evanston and Clinton Lake. The only Snowy Owl report was at Chicago Urban. Three Sandhill Cranes at Cypress Creek were noteworthy as were McHenry's 68 count week birds. Joliet had the only Virginia Rail and the only American Woodcock was at Middle Fork River Valley. Calumet City-Sand Ridge had the only Great Black-backed Gull plus 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Chicago Lakefront also recorded 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A Carlyle Lake Lesser Black-backed Gull was recorded, a rarity in southern Illinois. Five Eastern Phoebes were recorded, all in southern Illinois at Jackson, Crab Orchard, Union, and Horseshoe Lake. One Fish Crow was at Warbluff Valley; a Bohemian Waxwing (in Iowa) was at Muscatine and a count week bird was at Kishwaukee. An amazing **55** American Pipits (a new high count) were at Horseshoe Lake. Spotted Towhees were tallied at Morris-Wilmington and Horsehoe Lake.

Unusual warblers included an Orange-crowned at Rend Lake, a Palm at Chicago Urban and solitary Pines at Crab Orchard and Rend Lake. A Brewer's Blackbird was documented at Decatur. **Three** immature Indigo Buntings were at Horseshoe Lake.

The Northern Shrike staged an invasion this winter and was recorded on 19 Chrismtas Bird Count circles. This individual was photographed on 11 Feb. 1996 at Lyons Woods Forest Preserve, Lake Co. by Eric Walters.

The only Le Conte's Sparrows were at Rend Lake (2), Jackson (1), and Cypress Creek (2). The only Vesper Sparrow was at Chicago Urban and single Harris' Sparrows were recorded at Fermilab-Batavia and Horseshoe Lake.

High Counts

All-time high state counts were 181 Mute Swans at Calumet City-Sand Ridge. An all-time high count of 14 Cooper's Hawks was recorded at Fermilab-Batavia. Bald Eagle numbers were at record levels wintering along Illinois' rivers with a new 10-year high of 1870 individuals recorded for the state (see histogram). Thirty-four percent of the known aged Bald Eagles reported were immatures indicating a healthy young population wintering in Illinois. Chicago Lakefront recorded 4 Peregrine Falcons. Waukegan counters once again tied their Thayer's Gull count of 7 birds. Kishwaukee recorded 3 Northern Saw-whet Owls. Western Mercer's 92,068 American Crows was an impressive all-time high tally. Rockford's 110 Brown Creepers set a record. The aforementioned 55 American Pipits at Horseshoe Lake set a record. Waukegan's 8 Northern Shrikes was an impressive tally and a record. Rend Lake's 310,800 Brown-headed Cowbirds set a single circle high count (as if we needed this high count).

Irruptive Species

The best irruptive species for the second consecutive year was the Northern Shrike with 54 individuals in 19 count circles (plus 6 shrike sp.). Many compilers reported all-time high counts for Northern Shrike in their circles. Irruptive winter finches were best represented by the Pine Siskin, 1711 (in 45 count circles) and Common Redpoll, 184 (in 22 count circles, none in southern Illinois) recorded for the state. Evening Grosbeaks were tallied at Evanston (1), Andulsia-Buffalo (1), Humiston Woods (3) and Rend Lake (2) plus 2 count week birds at Clinton Lake for a rather paltry showing. Crossbill species were conspicuously absent.

Deletions

One of the unpleasant duties of the Christmas Bird Counts editors is the deletion of rare or out-of-season species for which there are no convincing details. Two Eastern Wood-Pewees were dropped from this year's CBC because no details were provided. This species has never been recorded on an Illinois CBC and is in the tropics long before the CBC period.

The Brewer's Blackbird continues to present difficult field identification problems on CBCs. Two Brewer's Blackbird records from this season were not accepted by the seven-member Illinois Ornithological

Reeords Committee. This speeies has very rarely occurred in Illinois in winter. Generally Brewer's Blackbird is found in winter in pasture farm lots or horse stables, sometimes alone or in small flocks with blaekbirds.

The five Lark Sparrows reported at the new Jackson County Count were also not aeeepted by IORC. This speeies has never been reeorded in Illinois in winter and the descriptions did not eonvineingly rule out American Tree Sparrow. Finally, the Worm-eating Warbler from Warbluff Valley was not aeeepted by IORC.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Vernon Kleen who reviewed a draft of this report. We welcome new counts from Jackson County in southern Illinois and Andalusia-Buffalo in the western portion of our state. Yes, this is another Peter Petersen eount! Peter now reports six CBCs for Illinois reeords (see Table 1). Many thanks to the compilers who provide detailed analyses of their count eirele results, understand winter bird distribution well, and year after year, eonseientiously draft good birders into the field.

Editor's Note: The 96th Christmas Bird Count period runs from 20 Dec. 1996 through 5 Jan. 1997. Please contact your area compilers to see how you can help with this annual event.

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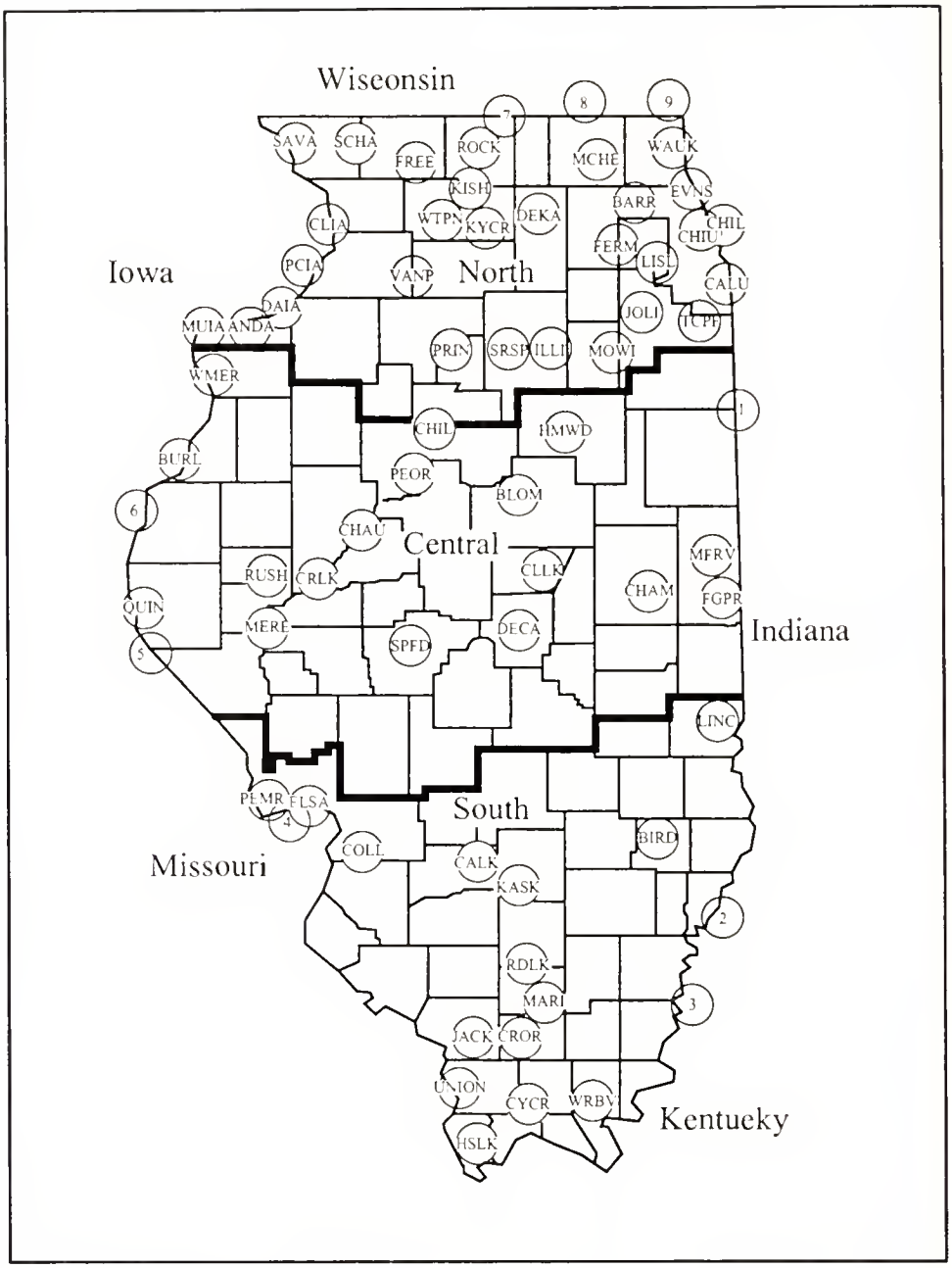

Key to Tables

Code	Description
ew	count week only (3 days before or after)
NC	New to the state's Count speeies list
ne	new speeies to that eirele's count
HC	All-time High Count for the state
hc	high count for that eirele
im	immature
*	Documented speeies
ps	Present for sometine
ph	Photographed
boldface	Speeies/number/item of note

Illinois '95 Christmas • Bird Count: Table 1

Count Name	Map I D	Date	Time		Temp		Sky	Snow	Water	Wind	Wind	Veloc	Field	Feeder	Feeder	Parties	Party	Party	Owling	Owling	Compiler	Area
			Begin	*End*	*Low*	*High*				Direction	*Low*	*High*	Observ	Observ	Hours		Hours	Miles	Hours	Miles		
Andalusia-Buffalo	ANDA	18-Dec	0600	1700	16	30	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	N	5	15	5	1	1 00	5	29 00	389 00	5 00	39 00	Peter C Petersen	
Barrington	BARR	18-Dec	0700	1640	28	32	Cloudy	3 00	Prtly Froz	ENE	8	25	29	3	3 00	7-15	85 75	382 75	2 00	1 00	Duane Heaton	
Calumet City-Sand Ridge	CALU	30-Dec	0700	1600	26	35	Cloudy	0 50	Prtly Froz	SW	5	5	41	8	11 00	19	77 50	287 50	0 50	0 75	M Baker & P Strand	
Chicago Lakefront	CHI L	25-Dec	0700	1600	26	30	Prtly Clear	0-1 00	Prtly Froz	NW	12	15	15	0	0 00	1-1	19 00	58 50	0 00	0 00	Joel Greenberg	
Chicago Urban	CHI U	23-Dec	0400	1600	22	31	Cldy, Prtly Clear	2 00	Prtly Froz	NW	5	10	13	10	10 00	8	60 00	200 00	2 00	4 00	Jeffrey Sanders	
Clinton IA-Savanna Fulton	CL IA	22-Dec	0515	1700	20	26	Cloudy, light snow	0 00	Prtly Froz	W	2	10	10	2	4 00	4	37 00	115 00	3 00	27 00	Peter C Petersen	
De Kalb	DE KA	16-Dec	0700	1700	16	33	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	ESE	3	3	17	1	2 00	-	45 50	370 75	0 00	0 00	Steve Messenger	
Evanston North Shore	EVNS	30-Dec	0530	1700	24	35	Cloudy	2 00	Prtly Froz	S	-	9	48	18	18 00	19-21	117 00	394 00	- 00	- 00	David B Johnson	
Fermi Lab-Batavia	FERM	16-Dec	0530	1700	22	40	Clear	0 01	Prtly Froz	NW-NE	5	10	88	4	8 00	10-28	159 00	477 00	6 00	17 00	Denis Kanja	
Freeport	FREE	30-Dec	0500	1615	23	33	Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	SW	0	2	13	4	6 00	5	35 75	407 50	4 00	45 00	Keith Blackmore	
Illini State Park	ILLI	17-Dec	0515	1700	27	41	Prtly Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	NE	5	20	12	3	4 00	5	41 50	335 25	3 25	12 00	Jim Hampson	
Joliet	JOLI	16-Dec	0700	1700	22	40	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	S	5	10	13	0	0 00	-	61 00	339 00	0 00	0 00	Jerry Olson	K
Kishwaukee	KISH	30-Dec	0700	1700	20	35	Cloudy	0 50	Prtly Froz	SW	12	12	27	6	12 00	14-15	102 50	698 25	3 00	2 00	Alan Brauhagen	
Kyte Creek	KYCR	29-Dec	0800	1700	23	33	Partly Cloudy	0 00	PrtlyFroz	SW	10	10	9	5	5 00	5	18 50	143 50	0 00	0 00	Everette H Cooley	O
Lisle Arboretum	LISL	17-Dec	0430	1700	29	44	Cloudy	4 00	Prtly Froz	NE	0	10	63	1	2 00	18	131 00	605 00	11 50	37 00	John Leonard	
McHenry County	MCHE	16-Dec	0700	1700	18	36	Clear	2 00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	28	0	0 00	14	73 15	480 50	2 25	30 00	David A Frey	R
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	30-Dec	0715	1630	20	35	Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	S	5	15	11	3	6 00	8	67 50	513 00	0 00	0 00	John Stofan	
Muscatine IA-IL City	MU IA	23-Dec	0530	1700	21	28	Cloudy w snow	0 00	Prtly Froz	NW	3	10	10	10	20 00	4	36 00	341 00	4 50	54 00	Peter C Petersen	I
Princeton-Bureau	PRIN	31-Dec	0530	1615	32	35	Foggy	3 00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	6	0	0 00	3	14 50	170 00	0 00	0 00	Steven Slupp	
Princeton-Cordova	PC IA	21-Dec	0500	1700	16	29	Partly Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	NW	3	12	9	2	4 00	4	37 00	363 00	6 00	48 00	Peter C Petersen	H
Quad Cities	DA IA	17-Dec	0430	1700	26	38	Partly Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Open	SE	8	15	20	16	32 00	11	68 00	559 00	10 00	75 00	Peter C Petersen	
Rockford	ROCK	16-Dec	0700	1630	19	30	Clear	1 00	Prtly Open	Calm	0	0	33	2	4 00	12-16	99 75	609 75	1 00	0 50	Dan Williams	
Savannah Army Depot	SAVA	19-Dec	840	1510	20	28	Prtly Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	N	28	28	6	0	0 00	2	6 50	35 00	0 00	0 00	John Bergstrom	
Schapville	SCHA	30-Dec	730	1700	25	31	Cloudy	1 00	Prtly Froz	S	0	5	21	0	0 00	6	40 00	395 50	0 00	0 00	Terrence N Ingram	
Starved Rock State Park	SRSP	1-Jan	0515	1700	36	39	Cloudy	1 00	Prtly Froz	W	0	5	14	1	2 00	6	48 00	359 50	3 75	16 00	John McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	30-Dec	0600	1615	22	37	Cloudy	1 00	Prtly Froz	SW	5	5	31	13	26 00	13	86 00	533 00	3 00	4 00	Aura Duke	
Van Patten	VANP	1-Jan	0600	1800	30	33	Cloudy, foggy	2 00	Prtly Froz	N	0	10	9	6	9 50	5	40 00	373 50	1 75	12 00	Mary Ann Hoeffliger	
Waukegan	WAUK	1-Jan	0530	1800	33	37	Cloudy, light rain	2-3 0	Prtly Froz	NE	6	12	25	64	103 00	9-13	77 00	331 00	2 00	10 00	Joel Greenberg, Al Stokie	
White Pines	WTPN	30-Dec	0700	1700	15	32	Clear Prtly Cldy	0 00	Frozen	W	0	10	10	6	12 00	5	36 00	260 00	0 00	0 00	Jerry McCormick	
Bloomington- Normal	BLOM	16-Dec	0700	1630	24	42	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	E	0	5	10	0	0 00	5	34 50	204 50	0 00	0 00	Dale Birkenholz	
Burlington, IA	BURL	16-Dec	0700	1700	23	44	Prtly Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	S	0	5	12	0	0 00	4	45 00	334 00	0 00	0 00	Charles Fuller	C
Champaign County	CHAM	16-Dec	0545	1700	25	45	Prtly Clear, Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	N-NE	6	8	24	2	4 00	12	67 50	304 00	1 50	35 00	Helen M Parker	
Chautauqua N W R	CHAU	23-Dec	0615	1545	20	27	Cloudy, Light snow	0 25	Prtly Open	W	3	12	20	1	0 50	6-7	52 25	316 75	1 25	2 50	Richard G Bjorklund	E
Chillicothe	CHIL	30-Dec	0700	1600	20	30	Clear, Prtly Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	SW	5	10	15	0	0 00	-	58 00	373 00	0 00	0 00	Richard Collins	
Clinton Lake	CLLK	17-Dec	0500	1700	27	43	Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	E	10	15	10	0	0 00	7	51 50	343 00	3 00	40 00	Myrna Deaton	N
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRLK	16-Dec	0600	1600	24	48	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	9	0	0 00	5	50 00	272 00	0 00	0 00	Robert Q Randall	
Decatur	DECA	16-Dec	0515	1715	26	43	Partly Cldy	0 00	Prtly Froz	NE	0	8	6	4	8 00	5	36 00	298 00	1 75	23 00	Myrna Deaton	I
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	30-Dec	0600	1600	17	32	Partly Clear	2-4 0	Prtly Froz	W	0	5	20	0	0 00	12	59 50	311 50	1 00	10 00	Marilyn F Campbell	
Humiston Woods	HMWD	18-Dec	0647	1700	30	39	Foggy, light frz rain	0 00	Partly Froz	NW	0	5	19	7	14 00	6	34 00	231 00	0 00	0 00	Joe Jobst	R
Meredosia Island	MERE	2-Jan	0645	1700	31	33	Cloudy	2 00	Prtly Froz	NW	25	25	-	0	0 00	4	50 50	440 00	0 00	0 00	Tony Ward	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	1-Jan	0100	1715	33	35	Cloudy, light rain	0 00	Prtly Froz	NE	0	10	21	2	3 00	12-14	77 00	377 00	7 00	45 00	Steven D Bailey	V
Peoria	PEOR	16-Dec	0700	1700	21	43	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	S	0	3	21	0	0 00	8	69 00	508 00	0 00	0 00	L H Princen	
Quincy,IL-Marion Co MO	QUIN	30-Dec	0600	1600	27	36	Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	S	0	8	12	1	1 00	6	34 25	239 50	1 00	15 00	Al Dierkes	I
Rushville	RUSH	16-Dec	0700	1700	28	40	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	SW	0	5	4	32	36 00	2	11 00	55 50	0 00	0 00	Harold E Hedden	
Springfield	SPFD	17-Dec	0330	1700	26	43	Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	NE	5	12	9	2	4 00	4	38 00	217 00	4 00	37 00	H David Bohlen	
Western Mercer	WMER	20-Dec	0515	1700	11	24	Clear, Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	W	3	8	-	0	0 00	4	31 00	272 00	4 00	64 00	Peter C Petersen	
Bird Haven Sanctuary-Olney	BIRD	16-Dec	0700	1700	27	51	Clear	0 00	Open	W	0	5	24	0	0 00	9	57 50	434 00	0 00	0 00	Frank E Storment	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	23-Dec	0645	1710	22	34	Cloudy, light snow	2 00	Prtly Froz	NW	0	10	4	0	0 00	4	31 00	270 00	4 00	44 00	Dan Kassebaum	
Collinsville	COLL	16-Dec	0730	1630	23	45	Clear, cloudy	0 00	Open	E	0	5	9	0	0 00	5	40 50	350 50	0 00	0 00	L B Hendrickson	
Jackson County	JACK	1-Jan	0630	1700	40	45	Cloudy, foggy	0 00	Partly Froz	N	5	10	13	3	4 00	6	56 25	355 50	2 25	20 00	Steven E Juhlin	S
Crab Orchard N W R	CROR	16-Dec	0630	1730	32	55	Foggy, Clear	0 00	Open	NE	0	10	17	0	0 00	6	60 00	306 50	2 50	15 00	Tracy R Evans	
Cypress Creek	CYCR	19-Dec	0630	1700	35	27	Cldy, rain, snow	0 00	Open	N	10	15	16	0	0 00	8	65 00	473 00	0 00	0 00	Judy K DeNeal	O
Elsah	ELSA	30-Dec	730	1400	33	34	Cloudy, light rain	3 00	Prtly Froz	Var	0	0	8	0	0 00	3	18 50	60 00	0 00	0 00	Taylor A DeLaney	
Horseshoe Lake	HSLK	19-Dec	0600	1700	32	42	Cloudy, light snow	0 00	Open	NE	5	25	9	0	0 00	5-6	44 00	215 00	1 00	8 00	Vernon Kleen	C
Kaskaskia Audubon	KASK	23-Dec	0700	1602	20	28	Prtly Cloudy	0 00	Prtly Froz	Calm	0	0	2	0	0 00	1	9 00	53 20	0 00	0 00	Joe Merkelbach	
Lincoln Trail State Park	LINC	16-Dec	0700	1630	27	50	Prtly Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	SE	0	5	19	0	0 00	-	50 50	325 50	0 00	0 00	Don Dee Watts	I
Pere Marquette Park	PEMR	16-Dec	0800	1630	32	50	Clear	0 00	Prtly Froz	NW	0	5	26	0	0 00	8	56 00	271 00	0 00	0 00	Bob Thomas	
Rend Lake	RDLK	16-Dec	0630	1715	33	50	Clear, Foggy, Clear	0 00	Open	SSE	0	5	9	0	0 00	5	63 15	351 50	5 25	68 00	Robert Danley	H
Union County	UNION	20-Dec	6000	1700	22	34	Clear, Cloudy	0 00	Open	S	0	3	16	0	0 00	6-8	65 00	248 50	1 00	0 00	Vernon Kleen	
Warbluff Valley Sanctuary	WRBV	18-Dec	0635	1703	42	52	Cloudy, light rain	0 00	Open	NW	5	10	23	1	1 00	-	63 05	319 75	0 00	0 00	Tim Dever	
					25 03	37.03							1029	242	378		3138 8	19248 7	117	828.75		
					Av Low	Av Hi							Total	Total	Total		Total	Total	Total	Total		

Illinois '95 Christmas • Northern Counts

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	ICPF	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	KYCR	SRSP	TOTALS
Common Loon												1							
Pied-billed Grebe			2		2							25		5		1			
Horned Grebe														1					
Double-crested Cormorant					7							1		2					
Great Blue Heron		4	2		2	6	1	14	12		16	5		6	4	4		35	
Black-crowned Night-Heron			3		8														11
swan sp							1	2						1					
Mute Swan	1		1		**181 HC**	1	8	1	2	2	1	5							
Snow Goose	2		1	1	2			18	1		2	5			1				
Canada Goose	12130	5734	885	919	1082	2979	**19867 hc**	**31586 hc**	10620	1812	4735	17124	96	11170	5868	2800	6	765	
Wood Duck	8	5	8		5		2		1		1	2	cw	7	11 hc	1			
Green-winged Teal		cw	1											14					
American Black Duck	104	12	17		15	5	10	59	37		10	183	2	46	20	25		5	
Mallard	2482	2088	2008 hc	43	2682	636	1798	3956	4015	370	1184	28437	669	13563	3177 hc	2393		190	
Mallard X Black Hybrid		1																	1
Northern Pintail			1		3			1	2		2	11		1	1				
Northern Shoveler			1						cw		8								
Gadwall	9	1	10						31		37	527		14				3	
American Wigeon	11		5								1	29		2	1			2	
Canvasback	1				1						1	19							
Redhead	7		1		8	1					3	2		5					
Ring-necked Duck			5		1						8	4							
Greater Scaup	18	1		1	1499														
Lesser Scaup	79	2	5	1	318						18	8							
scaup sp	16	32																	
Harlequin Duck		**1 imm. ***																	1
Oldsquaw		8																	
Common Goldeneye	383	1028	527	832	348		171	34	4		91	318		429	1	6		377	
Bufflehead	48	6	11	3	37						5	6							
Hooded Merganser	22		10	1		2		2			7	118		25					
Common Merganser	140	24	1	34	48				2		413	4329		6089	2			234	
Red-breasted Merganser	72	461 hc	6	42	30							2							
merganser sp.	5				13														
Ruddy Duck			1		1						3	2		1					
duck sp	5				2		21								40	2			
Turkey Vulture												1 ps							
Bald Eagle									1			2		4	13 hc	2		4	
adults									1			1		1	2	1		1	
immatures												1		3	11	1		3	
eagle sp															1				
Northern Harrier		2 hc				1	2	11 hc	1	15	2	3	1	12	2	1	1	4	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	3			2	4	cw	4	3	3		3			6 hc	5	1	2	
Cooper's Hawk	2	8 hc	2		8	5	2	**14 HC**	2	cw	1	2	cw	1	9 hc	9		1	
Northern Goshawk		cw			cw	1										2			
accitpiter sp	1				1										1	2			
Red-shouldered Hawk		2	1			1	2		1	cw			2		3	2			
Red-tailed Hawk	43	**73 hc**	11 hc	1	53	57	**104 hc**	**116 hc**	101	70	43	78	17	52 hc	**148 hc**	99	8	41	
Rough-legged Hawk	2	12	1		4	2	11	8	2	8	5	5	12	5	14	11	3	6	
American Kestrel	21	31	7		38	19	23	37	47	33	26	24	35 hc	27 hc	29	37	7	33	
Merlin					cw										**1* hc**				
Peregrine Falcon			1	**4 HC**	3											cw			

Illinois '95 Christmas • Northern Counts

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHI U	CHI L	CALU	MCHF	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	KYCR	SRSP	TOTALS
hawk sp							1	5	2	3									
falcon sp															1	1			
Ring-necked Pheasant	1				1	8	4	45	7	16	12	17	8	22	107	28	2	6	
Wild Turkey						12		5						**90 hc**	**78 hc**	55		16	
Northern Bobwhite								7				12				1			
Virginia Rail											1								1
American Coot	1	1	2		123			2	4	1	26	776		3		2			
Sandhill Crane						cw-68									cw				
Killdeer		1																2	
Common Snipe	1	4				1		1	2						7	1		1	
Bonaparte's Gull			1											2					
Ring-billed Gull	616	279	333	607	645	1	156	111	268		151	722		259	1			107	
Herring Gull	629	83	98	82	1116	1	208	290	49		35	633		28	9	10		127	
Thayer's Gull	**7 HC**				2			1 * hc											
Lesser Black-backed Gull				2*	2*														
Glaucous Gull	1			1	2														
Great Black-backed Gull					1*														1
Black-legged Kittiwake		1 imm *																	
gull sp.		85	30	280	1		41	117				2			1				
Rock Dove	346	766	6000	355	1959	449	543	443	1534	500	428	128	168	168	778	1601 hc	133	262	
Mourning Dove	719	385	138	1	324	178	112	529 hc	391	432	278	96	103	19	**833 hc**	462	80	22	
Eastern Screech-Owl	8	4	4			8	4	7	12	5		1	4	8	1	2		3	
Great Horned Owl	7	12	4		3	15	10	14	15	9	4	1	7	7	10	10		7	
Snowy Owl			1	cw															1
Barred Owl									1	cw					14	6		7	
Long-eared Owl		1					**23 hc**	**22 hc**	5	**13**					1				
Short-eared Owl		4 hc				2	1	3				1			1	2		2	
Northern Saw-whet Owl																**3 HC**			
owl sp.															1				
Belted Kingfisher	3	9	6		5	2	5	8	15		5	6	5 hc	6	7	13	2	4	
Red-headed Woodpecker	3		1			1				3	2		1		3	8		2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	54	55	30 hc		12	26	26	69 hc	73	30	21	47	11	27 hc	63hc	60	6	33	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	2	1	cw	1	1	1	2	1		cw				5 hc	2		2	
Downy Woodpecker	126	191	101	8	63	83	85	234 hc	129	72	39	83	29	31	241 hc	211	16	54	
Hairy Woodpecker	45	64	29		8	12	7	28 hc	19	3	8	15	2	4	26	40	5	10	
Northern Flicker	4	1	3		3		12	32	21	21	3	11	2	8	14	7	3	15	
Pileated Woodpecker		1*													1	1		1	
woodpecker sp.															1				
Horned Lark	9	8				3		10	cw	166	3			79	30	31	11	5	
Blue Jay	87	14	22		108	85	26	106	110	64	22	20	30	36	199	176	27	47	
American Crow	503	1916	859	41	2270	560	1073	1204 hc	968	1191	310	135	920	141	2890	2730	122	211	
Black-capped Chickadee	551	587	242	8	152	383	299	719 hc	654	205	128	114	58	102	546 hc	455	39	149	
Tufted Titmouse	1	3	2		17			22	14	46	8	14	1	22	27	58 hc	10	43	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	27	26	17		13	35	21 hc	56 hc	47	23	9	1	10 hc	2	53	27			
White-breasted Nuthatch	62	99	28		25	66	25	100 hc	132	77	24	24	26	23	196	201	15	45	
Brown Creeper	7	19	40	2		1	9	41	24	1	10	31	9	17 hc	**110 HC**	61	3	12	
Carolina Wren	1	cw		cw	1				1		1	3				cw		10	
Winter Wren	1	3	1			1	1	3	1						3	3		2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1	4		2	5		2	cw	3					13	5		2	
Eastern Bluebird								1	3									3	
Townsend's Solitaire	**1 *ph**															**cw-1***			1

Illinois '95 Christmas • Northern Counts

Species	WAUK	EVNS	CHIC	CHIL	CALU	MCHE	BARR	FERM	LISL	TCPF	JOLI	MOWI	DE KA	ILLI	ROCK	KISH	KYCR	SRSP	TOTALS
Hermit Thrush	2	4	1			2	2	1	1						1				
catharus sp									1										1
American Robin	283	660	104		3	19	189	40	280		4	1			5	28 hc			
Varied Thrush						**1* ph**													1
Brown Thrasher																1			
Bohemian Waxwing																cw*			
Cedar Waxwing	161	152	13			34	136	85	298						26	231			
Northern Shrike	**8 HC**	**5 hc**	1		1	4	3	**7 hc**	3	2	1				**4hc**	**6 hc**			
shrike sp								1							1				
European Starling	1620	2522	4000	81	2186	961	2576 hc	2473 hc	5104	1647	949	1555	1601	839	2398	3173	518	8383	
Palm Warbler			1*																1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	3	3												1	2			
Northern Cardinal	360	424	133		119	118	263	340 hc	325	231	71	139	52	64	417	402	55	87	
Eastern Towhee														1	cw				
Spotted Towhee												**1***							
American Tree Sparrow	527	215	84		208	772	679	694	511	389	292	685	130	268	1974	803	75	244	
Field Sparrow												3			4*	2		1	
Vesper Sparrow			1*																1
Savannah Sparrow																1			
Fox Sparrow	1	5 hc	1		3		4 hc	4 hc				6		6	cw				
Song Sparrow	34	31	7		15	57	76	73	49	16	12	17	15	13	132	87		21	
Lincoln's Sparrow																1			
Swamp Sparrow	8	11	2		15	22	12	**99 hc**	27	13	4		2	2	56	37		5	
White-throated Sparrow	27	17	20		5	9	**188 hc**	45	30	8	2	12	5	2	13 hc	50 hc	9	5	
White-crowned Sparrow			1		1		**35 hc**	9		1		18	1	2		1			
Harris' Sparrow								**1 * ps**											
sparrow sp									1							6			
Dark-eyed Junco	654	675	273	8	365	398	810	565	651	402	318	93	120	95	1081	958	161	346	
Lapland Longspur										cw			3	20	cw	8			
Snow Bunting	1	118 hc	2	1						cw				106	7		8	5	
Red-winged Blackbird	4009	3	1		69		34	40	9	100	500	2		8	7	5		1494	
Eastern Meadowlark		2						1						10 hc				4	
Rusty Blackbird								50			1			8 hc	**67 hc**				
blackbird sp	3	1			5			4								3			
Common Grackle	6	3	1		14			1	1	2	75	29	1	84	cw	1		509	
Brown-headed Cowbird			cw		295				4					312	6	2		1699	
Purple Finch			5		2	6	8	7	7	10		1	2	4	10	14	3	2	
House Finch	413	133	247	35	245	101	269	303 hc	287	157	82	62	113	13	**698 hc**	630	57	20	
Common Redpoll	1	54	2		1	5	1	1	2	2	32	15			7	20	3		
Pine Siskin	75	71	3			25	106	78	183	4	7	20	cw	7	88	164	39	4	
American Goldfinch	277	337	155	13	132	76	120	231	305	130	45	34	45	52	179	175	43	101	
Evening Grosbeak		1																3	
House Sparrow	1076	1382	3500	22	785	770	730	832	1050	1246	627	401	452	456	1180	1477	224	513	
exotics [Monk Parakeet]	[7]		[4]	[6]	[14]														[31]
[Ringed-turtle Dove]									[20]		[51]								[71]
Total species	**72**	**73**	**79**	**28**	**71**	**58**	**55**	**70**	**66**	**46**	**65**	**73**	**40**	**69**	**72**	**73**	**33**	**65**	
Total individuals	**28991**	**20995**	**20093**	**3429**	**17732**	**9039**	**30957**	**46087**	**28519**	**9557**	**11173**	**57268**	**4770**	**35258**	**23986**	**19963**	**1695**	**16360**	

Illinois '95 Christmas • North/Central Counts

	Northern											Central										
SPECIES	FREE	WTPN	PRIN	VANP	SCHA	SAVA	CLIA	PCIA	DAIA	ANDU	MUIA	MERV	FGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHIL	PEOR	CHAU	TOTALS
Pied-billed Grebe									1	1		1					4	1			6	
Double-crested Cormorant						2			1								1			3	2	
Great Blue Heron		2	13				1	2	5	1	2	9hc	1	4		1	16	9	2	10	60	
[Trumpeter Swan]																	[4]					
Mute Swan												2									11	
Greater White-fronted Goose											1											
Snow Goose									67			9hc		5	15	3	3					
Canada Goose	54	369	27	455		464	444	232	533	cw	1614	6000hc	105	156	560	3982	1052	3128	702	1595	6236	
Wood Duck	cw							1	1										3	5	2	
Green-winged Teal							1				1						15	cw		1	2	
American Black Duck	2nc		3	7			62	2	16	2	4	14		1		3	290	42	22	8	75	
Mallard	88		235	453	20		1617	190	2738	260	259	1000hc	11	112	118	1535	15000hc	2755	1367	601	10818	
Northern Pintail							1		4			4hc					9hc					
Northern Shoveler							2		1										2	34		
Gadwall							1		5			2					25	16	4	40	110	
American Wigeon								3	1								-					
Canvasback									8		1	cw					15hc	1	2	2	3	
Redhead									1									cw			13	
Ring-necked Duck									2			1					18	cw			38	
Greater Scaup																	5hc	1				
Lesser Scaup				17		150		11	30					1			15			2	74	
Oldsquaw																	2	cw				
Common Goldeneye			1	58			58	206	725	200	12	cw	5			1	385	353	21	142	193	
Bufflehead						6		2	2								12	3	36		2	
Hooded Merganser							1										4	1 hyb			29	
Common Merganser				26			1	362	60	6	36						56		561	59	1543	
Red-breasted Merganser									1								6				1	
Ruddy Duck																	1	cw				
duck sp												35										
Turkey Vulture													1									
Bald Eagle			12	1	6	154	155	85	162	67	100						1		68	42	71	
adults			9		5	83	139	57	111	36	69								26	18	35	
immatures			3		1	58	16	28	51	3	31						1		42	24	35	
unknown				1		13															1	
Northern Harrier	1	3	1	2				2	1	1	2	7	1	1	2		3	1			3	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6hc			2	1			3	1	2	2	2	1	5			1	1		1	5	
Cooper's Hawk		4		1	1			2	3			9hc	5	6		2	3	2		3	1	
Northern Goshawk									1		1						1					
accipiter sp												1										
Red-shouldered Hawk					1		1						2				1				1	
Red-tailed Hawk	49	45	31	23	94	14	43	28	44	35	45	40hc	48	25	7	25	29	21	34	59	61	
Rough-legged Hawk	11	6	2		19	3	4	6	2	4	8	3		1			-	6	4	1	14	
American Kestrel	35hc	17	8	19	29	5	18	32	48	14	29	17	17	29	-	17	46	20	29	34	18	
Merlin												1										
Peregrine Falcon									1													9
falcon sp																	1					3
hawk sp					1									1								
Gray Partridge				15					1		23											39
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	2	3	12	5		26	8	18	2	3	33hc	3	146	62	10	26	5	3	1	15	
Wild Turkey	19hc	9	50	9	290		41	30	1	2	2	10	-		1		1	1nc	1		12	

Illinois '95 Christmas • North/Central Counts

	Northern											Central										
SPECIES	FREE	WEPN	PRIN	VANP	SCHA	SAVA	CLIA	PCIA	DAIA	ANDU	MUIA	MERV	EGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLLK	DECA	CHII	PEOR	CHAU	TOTALS
Northern Bobwhite				11					12	1	61	12					22	20		12	51	
[Chukar (in IA)]									[6]													[6]
American Coot												cw				cw	32	10			1	
Sandhill Crane																			2 nd?			
Killdeer							1	1					1	1					1	8	10	
Common Snipe							3	1	4							1			13		1	
American Woodcock												1										1
Bonaparte's Gull																	40			2	5	
Ring-billed Gull			4	1		24	58	69	1656	11	147					1	740	1028	839	2511	130	
Herring Gull				199		197	451	95	1524	23	139						24	23	56	1210	31	
Thayer's Gull								1nc	2		1							1				
Glaucous Gull									1													5
Black-legged Kittiwake																	1*					2
Rock Dove	624hc	148	57	505	460	6	293	119	1531	171	286	207	474	224	62	522	60	140	20	831	49	
Mourning Dove	66	74	63	146	2		169	238	547	31	257	664	744	452	52	248	147	110	105	221	39	
Eastern Screech-Owl	5			4	cw		7	9	5	3	8	45hc	8	20	3	1	6	2			3	
Great Horned Owl	10		11	7	4		14	8	13	7	11	37hc	34	23	5	2	23	14	1	cw	5	
Barred Owl	2		3	1	3		5	1	9	5	3	18hc	9	5		3	7	2	6	2	2	
Long-eared Owl	1nc			2			1			1	2	6	3	1								
Short-eared Owl				1								2	1	1				cw				
Northern Saw-whet Owl							1					1	1									6
Belted Kingfisher		1	2	2	5		7	3	6	2	4	9	7	8	2	4	7	14	5	14	11	
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	2		1			1	4	5	8	33	13	17	8	3			3	7	6	25	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13	17	19	20	36	7	46	30	28	42	51	121hc	96	48	18	19	30	20	68	50	80	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		2				1		1		4	4hc	1	1			2		2	1	4	
Downy Woodpecker	51	38	22	45	60	6	87	73	115	58	96	174hc	112	88	18	66	49	63	80	103	95	
Hairy Woodpecker	7	5	1	5	8		15	28	23	6	16	42hc	15	5	5	7	3	9	12	16	16	
Northern Flicker	5	3	17	3			11	8	10	13	53	48	18	17	8	19	15	31	14	20	20	
Pileated Woodpecker					2		2	3	10	1	1	15	18	3				9hc	2	4	11	
Horned Lark	135	47	150	62	29		31	6	8	1	2	83	772	86	44	cw	50	27	12	9	40	
Blue Jay	70	60	16	156	147	20	180	128	157	142	267	302	222	141	52	72	181	117	92	169	539	
American Crow	1030hc	344	14	1230	540	101	282	208	1528	236	307	74000	5710	384	124	1709	1302hc	606	258	363	265	
Black-capped Chickadee	110	66	42	155	125	13	273	155	402	166	226			1	21	102	170	131	172	226	135	
Carolina Chickadee												200hc	166	69								
Tufted Titmouse	4	32	19	8	13		44	51hc	65	55	60	256hc	187	69	11	26	33	84	85	73	92	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	8	2	18	2		2	5	12		3	6hc	5	22	6	5	1	4		1	1	
White-breasted Nuthatch	29	29	13	34	43	3	106	72	109	110	125	137hc	108	41	28	32	31	23	66	69	52	
Brown Creeper	7	4	1	12			14	13	19	19	19	24hc	24	63	1	21	8hc	20	8	16	11	
Carolina Wren			1				5		11	1	5	59hc	45	61		4	14	55	13	5	9	
Winter Wren							5		1		1	5hc	1	4			1	2	2			
Golden-crowned Kinglet				2			1	3	2	1	1	5	15	15			10	1	1		5	
Eastern Bluebird			1		3					5	1	54hc	2				2		6	7	14	
Hermit Thrush												1		1							1	
American Robin		1					14	5	3	1	3	3	10	21	3	2	2	6		6	3	
Gray Catbird													1									
Northern Mockingbird										1	2							5	1		5	
Brown Thrasher									2													
Bohemian Waxwing											1* (in IA)											1
Cedar Waxwing	17	35		7	71	20	114	10	67	6	90	37	7	17		12		24		18	20	
Northern Shrike			1	1	2	1		1				1			2							51

Illinois '95 Christmas • North/Central Counts

	Northern											Central										
SPECIES	FREE	WTPN	PRIN	VANP	SCHA	SAVA	CLIA	PCIA	DAIA	ANDU	MUIA	MERV	EGPR	CHAM	HMWD	BLOM	CLEK	DECA	CHII	PEOR	CHAU	TOTALS
Loggerhead Shrike								1														
shrike sp										1	1									2		6
European Starling	2122hc	408	359	903	1472	1	1618	1060	3279	716	3176	1802	1536	3357	474	1045	2820	6510	57	1637	630	
Yellow-rumped Warbler			2								3	3		1			1	8		1	6	
Northern Cardinal	67	47	71	91	106	2	274	155	500	145	391	263	376	460	82	88	167	97	130	197	305	
Eastern Towhee														1			1	1		cw	1	
American Tree Sparrow	554	59	245	670	500	49	623	409	234	249	760	755	185	353	52	253	235	101	150	256	518	
Field Sparrow												9hc		2							2	
Savannah Sparrow														1				1				
Fox Sparrow		2		1	1				11				3	1								
Song Sparrow	7		43	14	4		38	35	49	31	27	168	78	87	20	19	36	23	34	73	160	
Lincoln's Sparrow								2hc				2										5
Swamp Sparrow			16	3			3	30	4	5	4	102	17	42		14	16	45	7	6	84	
White-throated Sparrow	7hc	5	1	2			6	9hc	36	13	18	36	9	237		15	27	16	31	34	24	
White-crowned Sparrow			28	2	2			7	1	1	1	4	10	2				1		2	1	
Dark-eyed Junco	146	171	236	400	283	76	538	263	612	267	497	701	475	306	75	93	195	130	313	454	868	
Lapland Longspur	550hc			132				2	1			81	39	15			7					
Snow Bunting		35		37	1			6	2	1		cw	7									
Red-winged Blackbird			102				6	21	768		1	6	3	9		30	4		85	10	228	
Eastern Meadowlark												4				2	6	3				
Rusty Blackbird			1					30	2			36										
blackbird sp				2																		
Brewer's Blackbird								1??										1?				
Common Grackle		3	1					46	1			5		2	34	1	5			90		
Brown-headed Cowbird	4						95	2	8		1	1	14	54	4	cw	16			8		
Purple Finch	1	1		5	25		29	5	19	5	83	50hc	4	25	26	1	2	6	3		7	
House Finch	110	55	32	33	46		170	81	333	15	152	169	135	184	37	65	5	57		107	3	
Common Redpoll	2hc						6	1	4	6	13	4hc					2					184
Pine Siskin	26	19	27	17	3		37	9	76	178	73	28	4	25	2		132hc	5		48	36	
American Goldfinch	35	94	32	49	366		120	129	162	103	133	178	112	131	12	37	38	35	71	112	155	
Evening Grosbeak					cw		cw			1					3		cw(2)					
House Sparrow	1700	131	429	782	986		1909	1002	2436	1380	2964	1060	1039	836	427	208	1263	1454	662	1189	445	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow				1						3	4										180	
Total Species	45	40	50	61	42	23	65	71	86	61	72	76	63	66	41	46	84	67	58	65	82	
Total Individuals	7795	2401	2472	6882	5817	1324	10193	5861	20911	4844	12733	89259	13087	8524	2488	10328	25052	17465	6355	12872	24853	

Illinois '95 Christmas • Central/South Counts

	Central							South													
Species	CRLK	SPFD	RUSH	MERR	WMER	BURL	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLT	WRBV	PFMR	ELSA	TOTALS
Common Loon									1													2
Pied-billed Grebe		15							4		26	4	52			6		6				162
Horned Grebe		cw							1		10				cw							12
American White Pelican																				4		4
Double-crested Cormorant		4					1		1		20		1		-		2			2		57
Great Blue Heron	25	1		1	37	12	5	5	17		107	19	112	5	55	168	135	13	8	52	5	1029
Great Egret																	1*					1
Mute Swan		2										1						4				223
Greater White-fronted Goose														7		19	25					52
Snow Goose		1		49					2		1020		367	5838	cw	170	9	70	4	18206		25871
Ross' Goose		cw									1									1*		2
Canada Goose	4526	5690	223	1301	556	491	382	780	517	12	5965	51	104000	6132	375	36000	58000	405	13	3096	1	386000
Wood Duck		4										1	3	38		15	2					123
Green-winged Teal		cw				13			3			10	4	475		13				3		556
American Black Duck	15	20			2		2		2		85		18	173	9	200	55		4	21		1687
Mallard	12263	2010	6	9	78	345	2642	27	112		1112	178	770	47803	119	24000	8000	560	20	30658	60	238273
Northern Pintail	10	cw											5	1370	1	45	28			25		1524
Northern Shoveler	3	31hc			1						21		76	1741	75	88	3	8	17	23		2133
Gadwall	4	154hc				7			3		16	2	112	4930	12	250	46	12		2		6381
American Wigeon	2	2									5		5	473	cw	28	5			1		6964
Canvasback		6							4		3		18	1	2	23				16		125
Redhead		1									5		27	188	cw					3	1	266
Ring-necked Duck	1	4								1	3		121	300	cw	175			29	1		712
Greater Scaup		cw									1											1526
Lesser Scaup	4	10							2		41		225		18	5		8	3		1	1382
scaup sp									1					285								334
Oldsquaw		1									1											12
Common Goldeneye	36	560hc			3	9			6		432		74		301	7		16	8	226	194	8760
Bufflehead	1	14							2		3		99			1			3			266
Hooded Merganser	2	34				1			2		5	1	165	2	14	33	6	2		2		490
Common Merganser	108	252		6		90	62				28		81		59			9		10	2	14172
Red-breasted Merganser													3		cw					3		627
merganser sp									1									4			8	31
Ruddy Duck		5							1		2		29		cw	4				50		100
duck sp									9											80		154
Black Vulture														21								21
Turkey Vulture								33	8		1			17								61
Bald Eagle	43			66	143	243	76				4		26	2	1	52	20	3	1	263	45	1870
adults	30			43	91	170	60				3		8	2		30	9	1	1	144	23	1210
immatures	13			23	52	73	16				1		13			21	11	2		102	21	660
unknown													5		1	1				17	1	41
Northern Harrier	5	1		1	5		1	1	7	1	18		1	56	12	5	24	3	11	5	cw	249
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1			2	1	1	3	6	1	9		4	3	2	4	1		6	2	2	122
Cooper's Hawk	3	1	1		1	1	1		3	1	5	1	2		3hc			1		3	cw	135
Northern Goshawk		1				1			2													10
accipiter sp.									4					3					1			14
Red-shouldered Hawk								2	1	2	3	2	2	5	1	5	2		1	1		47
Red-tailed Hawk	62	18	15	37	42	50	37	62	40	3	60	24	44	39	38	63	26	43	37	88	8	2717
Harlan's form				1													1					2
Rough-legged Hawk	10	1	2	5	6	2	2	3	2					1	4hc				3	2		251
American Kestrel	12	18	4	9	13	46	28	37	39	7	57	21	10	64	14	51	17	46	25	17	5	1473
Merlin		1																	2*			5
falcon sp																				1		4
hawk sp	1								3					2				3	5			27
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	cw			28	18			2		1									1		727

Illinois '95 Christmas • Central/South Counts

	Central							South													
Species	CRLK	SPED	RUSH	MERE	WMER	BURL	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR	ELSA	TOTALS
Wild Turkey			62	6	13	4	20	8	26		1		20			3			3	8	cw	915
Northern Bobwhite	19	21	8	10	4			18	47		30	3	73	51	18		7	4	27	11	9	582
Sandhill Crane														3*								5
American Coot		10							168		13	1	35		cw	1		8		2		1222
Killdeer	2				1	3					11		2	2	2	6	24	2	1	1		82
Common Snipe	2				4	3					1			1		14				2		55
Bonaparte's Gull		19									142		13			1						225
Ring-billed Gull	94	845		6	51	1214	139		3		2943	111	965	7	9726	200	45	5296	114	282	433	33140
Herring Gull	2	30		4	72	37	2				8		4		350		3	15		3	6	7850
Thayer's Gull															2							17
Lesser Black-backed Gull		cw													1*			cw				5
gull sp							19		1									10		20		607
Rock Dove	64	330	23	40	48	344	160	415	22	5	33	118	21	18	12	78	75	233	42	28	60	25499
Mourning Dove	95	377	5	43	66	146	140	447	510	35	277	211	232	98	241hc	639	163	165	449	36	42	13789
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	12	2	2	7	3	1		1		3	5	1	1	1	9	7		2	1		261
Great Horned Owl	1	13			25hc		3		3	2	10	1	1	2	13	8	3	2	5	3		458
Barred Owl	3	4	1		1	5		2	6	2	5	5	2	1	2	4	7		7	3	2	170
Long-eared Owl									1						1			1	2			87
Short-eared Owl				1							6			13	8hc							49
owl sp									4													5
Belted Kingfisher	4	10	4	4	2	5	8	3	2		8	4	13	2	3	20	9	8	5	11	2	385
Red-headed Woodpecker	57	11	27	3	6	1	26	57	38	4	28	30	10	70	15hc	136	50	12	13	152	29	929
Red-bellied Woodpecker	91	70	38	29	42	29	51	60	63	5	42	55	64	36	27	157	65	45	65	111	37	2616
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		3							3		2	3	5	2		49	13	4	8	5	2	140
Downy Woodpecker	61	63	38	14	57	40	62	29	33	7	42	68	56	29	40hc	137	64	51	34	58	25	4223
Hairy Woodpecker	19	12	3	2	6	4	5	3	13	2	13	8	8	18	5	41	8	2	6	15		750
Northern Flicker	29	69	9	16	19	17	6	44	28		40	60	45	36	25	127	103	37	70	52	20	1331
Pileated Woodpecker	12	5		1	1	1	3	8	3		2	36	11	15	2	68	13	2	36	20	3	325
woodpecker sp									8													9
Eastern Phoebe												1	2			1	1					5
Horned Lark	19		10	4	17		48	55	186	89	43	8		7	682hc	462	222	12	18	22	84	3925
Blue Jay	295	274	97	50	115	79	143	329	624	67	448	143	349	111	157	277	97	102	348	220	109	8751
American Crow	1080	1154	233	1430	92068hc	416	99	403	131	20	564	82	114	52	150	125	27	407	205	210	38	207335
Fish Crow																			1*			1
Black-capped Chickadee	151	202	109	40	144	126	81		23									57		91	79	9013
Carolina Chickadee								87	126	8	140	206	176	108	53	232	112	26	140			1849
Tufted Titmouse	67	85	104	17	30	25	43	80	83	17	82	77	139	130	36	197	68	48	75	121	49	3043
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	1		5	4	9	3	4	1		11	6	4	2	1	4		3	2			546
White-breasted Nuthatch	112	46	52	19	53	41	54	48	39	4	11	35	16	56	11	131	28	12	34	64	15	3241
Brown Creeper	7	21	3	2	3	2	1		8	1	11	5	1	5	3	22	11	13	9	2	1	821
Carolina Wren	28	44	6	19	1	4	15	22	116	3	71	49	86	42	17	108	77	33	33	51	18	1135
Winter Wren		1		2		2			1		1		1			20	7	2		1		97
Golden-crowned Kinglet	5	13		10		1			1		114	13	53	93	4	94	11	10	76	5	4	605
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	cw							1		3	2	4	5	1	8	10		1	7	37	80
Eastern Bluebird	5		2	15	6		1	62	56	2	30	30	100	24	6	102	60	11	61	21	5	695
Hermit Thrush											1				1	25	6		3			53
American Robin	1	5			5	5		3	18		46	222	407	1724	8	227	878	13	91	12		5364
Gray Catbird						1																2
Northern Mockingbird	2	8		2				4	30	6	15	14	59	11	3	16	17	20	13	5	7	245
Brown Thrasher		1						1	1			1	2			6	8		3	2	1	29
American Pipit																	55*					55
Cedar Waxwing	7	42		3	148	26	cw	12	44	21	60	70	278	248		286	50	7	959	56	27	4052
Loggerhead Shrike	3						1		19		5	1	2	3	2	2			3			42
European Starling	98	3230	305	595	652	742	860	1296	2524	713	14833	780	850	6782	1919	865	5000	4695	1571	2334	175	128330
Orange-crowned Warbler											1											1

Illinois '95 Christmas • Central/South Counts

	Central							South													
Species	CRLK	SPFD	RUSH	MERE	WMER	BURL	QUIN	LINC	BIRD	KASK	RDLK	JACK	CROR	CYCR	CALK	UNION	HSLK	COLL	WRBV	PEMR	FLSA	TOTALS
Yellow-rumped Warbler		4									6	10	13	2	1	120	6		19			222
Pine Warbler											1*		1									2
Northern Cardinal	172	269	138	103	174	157	215	198	435	73	336	380	300	202	427hc	317	907	149	313	191	118	13058
Indigo Bunting																	3*					3
Eastern Towhee		1						3	2		10	9	5	3	1hc	5	25		11		2	88
Spotted Towhee																	1*					2
American Tree Sparrow	617	102	18	203	971	321	232	92	48	29	129	53	12	152	702hc	95	60	33	16	246	40	19781
Field Sparrow	5	4		1		1		3	110	20	11	9	6	33	cw	36	198	6	99	1		569
Savannah Sparrow	3		3						1		24			3	2	12	14		1	2		68
Le Conte's Sparrow											2	1		2								5
Fox Sparrow		5		1				2			2	15		1		5	28		3	2		113
Song Sparrow	240	49	8	20	54	9	23	112	118	4	263	79	24	245	455hc	247	670	61	148	162	18	4585
Lincoln's Sparrow																						
Swamp Sparrow	206	4		2	4	6	7	8	4		65	9		65	7	83	267		15	23		1511
White-throated Sparrow	56	46	4	16	4	39	22	17	31		267	262	82	77	80	370	1180	66	190	166	38	4261
White-crowned Sparrow			4	5	1		16	7	30		75	45	6	19	16	23	70	12	43	92	2	596
Harris' Sparrow																	1					2
sparrow sp									-										100			114
Dark-eyed Junco	309	404	111	194	346	315	303	321	309	195	357	570	634	190	670hc	513	603	91	547	287	256	22584
Lapland Longspur					10	6			40		20				10	276	8			1		1229
longspur sp									1													1
Snow Bunting					2				1													340
Red-winged Blackbird	1023	5	34	85	540	42		1	7		828760	1356	23	706	595	1100	7000	7118	7210	5301		865435
Eastern Meadowlark	1			1				1	96	71	111	23	39	320	198hc	74	126	5	69	17	cw	1184
meadowlark sp	13								1										86			100
Rusty Blackbird	20		2		1				80		210					58	3000		9	2		3577
blackbird sp									3				20000	136				6373	5465	109		32104
Common Grackle	701	22	2		8	3		5	19		937845	4173	46	895	10	650	600	10222	6432	138	20	962706
Brown-headed Cowbird	13	5			50	7	1	4			310800 HC	3	10	155	10	21	2300	43	9	100		316056
Purple Finch	1		19		23	21	4		4	1		3	4		2	2	1	1	28	6		195
House Finch	7	32	76	1	22hc	72	62	66	100	19	98	162	63	89	132	22	183	36	274	5	20	7195
Pine Siskin	1	20			5	11	21	2	14				3		1	1				10	3	1711
American Goldfinch	237	84	137	46	98	69	139	96	105	10	52	101	39	330	47	162	114	54	33	179	73	6088
Evening Grosbeak											2											10
House Sparrow	405	442	371	538	713	637	575	690	1320	129	148	156	8	36	875	76	97	365	259	467	229	40169
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	442	63	35	167	7	212	3											9		82	8	1216
Total species	75	81	43	55	64	63	53	54	86	38	98	68	88	82	78	89	82	67	77	89	52	
Total individuals	24066	17455	2354	5262	97621	6593	6857	6081	8709	1595	2108814	10196	132001	83743	18920	70606	91583	37228	26148	64565	2478	

Owl Skirmish

Story and photos by Eric Walters

Photo 1

Photo 2

Photo 3

At 8 a.m., on 15 Nov. 1995, at the northeastern point of the Northwestern University landfill in Evanston, Cook County, I saw a bird flying southbound just above Lake Michigan's surface. A group of gulls was attacking the bird, nearly driving it into the water. When the gulls reached land, they handed the harassment over to a small group of crows.

By now, it was obvious that the bird being attacked was a Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), which had landed against a wall, and was eyeing the crows circling overhead. (Photo 1).

The owl then directed its attention at me, the third intruder into its morning (Photo 2.)

The owl flew south (Photo 3) only to have the crows aggressively begin the chase (Photo 4).

Photo 5

After a brief skirmish in the air (Photo 5), the owl flew southeast over the lake leaving the crows behind.

Photo 4

—Eric Walters
7714 North Marshfield
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High Numbers of Glaucous Gulls at Lake Calumet

Thousands of gulls rest on the ice and feed at the landfills near Lake Calumet in winter. From February through early March, Lake Calumet also serves as a staging area for gulls returning northward as waters farther south begin to thaw. Searching through the large flocks at these times can produce high numbers of the less common gulls that visit Illinois.

On 11 Feb. 1996, my wife, Christine, and I visited the Lake Calumet area. From the southern edge of the lake, we saw thousands of gulls standing on the ice and swimming in the open water on the lake. Unfortunately, the areas where the gulls were congregating were quite di stant from our vantage point, but we were nonetheless able to pick out three Glaucous Gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*) as well as two Great Black-backed Gulls (*L. marinus*). The large size and distinctive plumage of these species made them stand out, even at a distance.

Hoping to see some of the rarer winter gulls closer, we also checked all other nearby open water areas including the main body of the lake. At the mouth of the Calumet River, we spotted one more Glaucous Gull. The big find, however, was when we checked the slip of water just south of the lake. Feeding on the ice there were six more Glaucous Gulls, all at close distance. One more Glaucous Gull we observed at the O'Brien Lock and Dam on the Little Calumet River brought our total of Glaucous Gulls for the day to 11.

Previously reported occurrences of 10 or more Glaucous Gulls in Illinois include the following sightings: 4 March 1995, Christine and I observed 12 Glaucous Gulls in Chicago, including 10 at Lake Calumet; 12 March 1994 an astounding 22 Glaucous Gulls were counted on Lake Calumet by several observers (Chapel 1994) (shortly before this date on 2 March 1994, I tallied 21 Glaucous Gulls at Lake Calumet). In addition, 11 Glaucous Gulls were recorded the winter of 1983/84 in the St. Louis area (Bohlen 1989); while 9 to 12 were seen on 30 Dec. 1980 and at least 10 during January 1971 (Mlodinow 1984).

Literature Cited

Bohlen. H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. University of Indiana Press. Bloomington, IN.

.Chapel, R. Field Notes: The 1994 Spring Season: Meadowlark 3:150.

Mlodinow. 1984. Chicago area birds. Chicago Review Press. Chicago, IL.

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Lake County Barrow's Goldeneye

On 20 Jan. 1996, while checking the Lake Michigan harbors in Lake County, Illinois, I discovered an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*) at Winthrop Harbor. The bird was inside the jetty at the NorthPoint Marina with at least a dozen Common Goldeneyes (*B. clangula*) and at least six Buffleheads (*B. albeola*). All of these birds were in a small area of open water just south of the outlet to Lake Michigan.

As I was scanning the diving ducks in the small patch of open water, I noticed that one of the male goldeneyes appeared to be darker than the rest. Upon further inspection, I noted that the white facial lores were crescent-shaped rather than the oval shape on the other birds. The bird's sides showed more black than the rest of the goldeneyes present. These characters distinguish Barrow's from the Common goldeneyes (Madge and Burn 1988).

As I approached for a closer look, all the diving ducks took flight and circled a few times before heading south. As they circled, I noted that the Barrow's Goldeneye displayed darker upperparts compared with the Common Goldeneyes.

An adult male Barrow's Goldeneye was seen at the same location the winter of 1995 (Johnson 1995). Mlodinow (1984) listed only 11 dates since 1955 for this rare winter visitor in the Chicago area.

Literature Cited

Johnson, D. 1995. Meadowlark 4: 106.Madge, S. and Burn, H. 1988. Waterfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the world. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, MA.

Mlodinow, S. 1984. Chicago area birds. Chicago Review Press. Chicago, IL.

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Prairie View, IL 60069

Townsend's Solitaire Winters Near Waukegan

On 25 Nov. 1995, I ventured into Lyons Woods Forest Preserve at the edge of Waukegan in Lake County. This woodlot was formerly an evergreen nursery; grown spruces and pines offered prime habitat for winter finches. Where the main path first splits, I found myself surrounded by evergreens and decided to play a tape of a scolding wren to elicit a crossbill response.

Within moments, a thrush-like bird flew up to the top of a tall spruce facing me. Since I had seen a Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) in Rockford days before (see Meadowlark 5:62), I knew immediately what I was looking at. The upright posture, slim build, dark long tail with white outer tail feathers, conspicuous eye ring, and overall gray color verified the identification.

A westward movement of solitaires may have occurred in November 1995 as additional records were reported from Rockford and the Indiana Dunes State Park. The three records were separated by only about 100 miles. Westerly winds prevailed in the weeks prior to my find.

The Lyons Woods bird fed on the plentiful berries of the arbor vitae and fruit bushes. Interestingly, the bird sang several times. It survived numerous severe cold snaps. The bird was last seen 21 Jan. 1996.

Since the first Illinois occurrence of Townsend's Solitaire 120 years ago (Ford 1956), there have been 16 state records: 12 from the northern sector, 9 from the northeast, 4 from the Morton Arboretum, and 2 from Lake County.

The two fall/winter 1995/1996 records are the first in Illinois since 1986. Mlodinow (1984) lists six records for northeastern Illinois. Corrections and additions to this list are 26 Dec. 1959 through February 1960 at Morton Arboretum (Illinois Audubon Bulletin 113:15), 19-22 Nov. 1977 at Chicago's Olive Park near Navy Pier (American Birds 32:214), 22 Oct. 1985 at Chicago's North Avenue Beach (American Birds 40:122) and 5 Jan. 1985 at Morton Arboretum (Morton Arboretum 1985 bird list).

Townsend's Solitaire, 25 Nov. 1995. Lyons Woods, Lake Co. Photo by David B. Johnson.

Literature Cited

Ford, E. 1956. Birds of the Chicago region. Chicago Academy of Sciences special publication.

Mlodinow, S. 1984. Chicago area birds. Chicago Review Press. Chicago, IL.

-Eric Walters
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Chicago, IL 60626

Varied Thrush Visits McHenry County

The weekend before Thanksgiving 1995, Sandra and Tom Hall discovered a beautiful robin-like bird they later identified as a Varied Thrush *(Ixoreus naevius)* visiting their feeder in Crystal Lake, McHenry County. A good friend of theirs, Nancy Williamson called Gill Moreland of The Nature Conservancy who confirmed it was a Varied Thrush. Moreland, along with Williamson, Kevin Butler, and Peggy Duffy also recorded the bird on 16 Dec. 1995 during the McHenry County Christmas Bird Count. They arrived at about 2 p.m., and an hour later, saw the Varied Thrush. The Halls told them the bird was typically seen about 3 p.m. each day.

In late December, I called Hall to ask if I could see the bird. On 14 Jan. 1996, Al Stokie, Riek Siebert, Bob Erickson, Jeff Sanders, Barb Meding, and I drove to the Halls and caught Tom Hall in his driveway. While talking to him, we saw the thrush in a large tree next to his house. This beautifully colored male had a rich, wide buff orange stripe above its eye and rectangular-like buff/orange marks from the tertials to the primaries. Its smooth, pumpkin-colored breast featured a dark band. When the bird turned, we observed an ice-blue back.

This western thrush is typically associated with coniferous trees and berry bushes, and also frequents feeders. Bohlen (1989) said that "even though their principal range is the West Coast of North America, they probably occur every winter in Illinois in small numbers." Most records are from northern Illinois between 21 Nov. and 1 May. The McHenry County Varied Thrush was last seen on 22 April 1996.

Literature Cited

Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. University of Indiana Press. Bloomington, IN.

—Renee Baade
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In Memory of Roger Tory Peterson

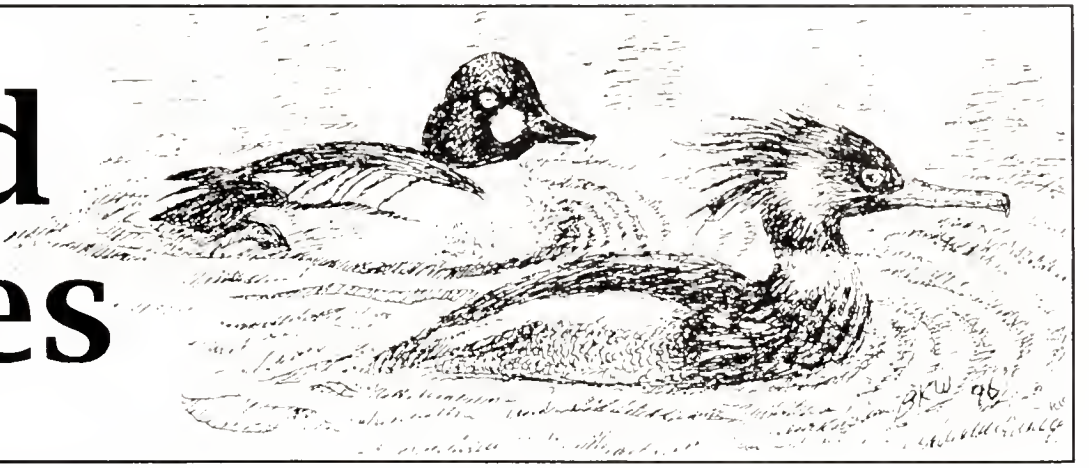
Roger Tory Peterson, the most prominent ornithologist and conservationist of our time, died on July 28, 1996. Mr. Peterson not only helped bring the world of birds, butterflies, trees, and other natural wonders closer to the general public, but he also displayed a conservation ethic in everything he did. Following is a brief quote from Mr. Peterson for birders to ponder. This is taken from the Peterson Field Guides: Eastern Birds. 1980. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts 02108:

Birds undeniably contribute to our pleasure and standard of living. But they are also sensitive indicators of the environment, a sort of "ecological litmus paper," and hence more meaningful than just chickadees and cardinals to brighten the suburban garden, grouse and ducks to fill the sportsman's bag, or rare warblers and shorebirds to be ticked off on the birder's checklist. The observation of birds leads inevitably to environmental awareness.

—Roger Tory Peterson

It is our hope that, in memory of Roger Tory Peterson, environmental awareness remains at the top of every birder's list.

Field Notes



Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser drawing by Brian K. Willis.

The 1995/1996 WINTER SEASON

By Robert Danley

The 1995/1996 winter season was highlighted by lingering western strays, some of which stayed for a significant part of the period. These include 2 Townsend's Solitaires, a Varied Thrush, Bohemian Waxwings, a Spotted Towhee, a Harris' Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeaks. Thirty-two species of waterfowl were detected including Harlequin Duck. Exceptionally large numbers of White-fronted, Snow, and Ross' Geese were reported in the early spring movements. Most dabblers and divers were found in lower than usual numbers.

All hawk species were found in good to normal numbers statewide with a February sighting of a Gyrfalcon being the best report. The wintering Bald Eagle population continues its steady climb. Red-tailed Hawks also seemed abundant at certain locales.

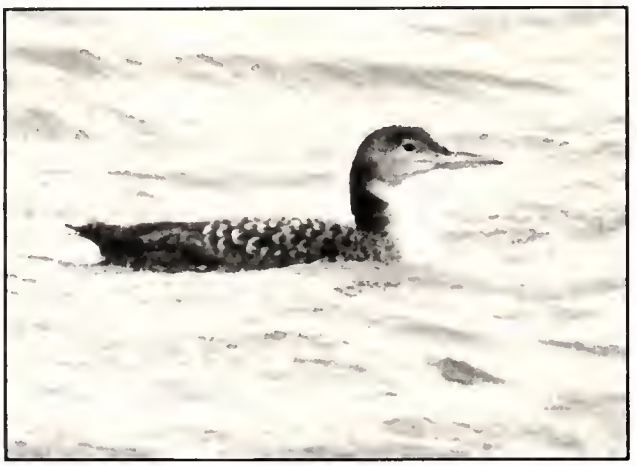
Gulls disappeared from the Chicago lakefront most of the winter. They appeared to have shifted southward. An exceptional example of birding coverage of gulls and gull hotspots was the sighting of what was likely the same Black-legged Kittiwake at three locations. Initially seen along Lake Michigan, then at Clinton Lake, the bird wintered for the balance of the period on the Mississippi River at Alton. Another rarity was Mew Gull. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are the most likely dark-backed species to be found in the state. Owl species totals were near normal, although Snowy Owls were scarce again.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread, but in small numbers. Winter Wrens were scarce. Northern Shrikes staged another big invasion year, larger than last year's. Wintering sparrows could be found if habitat was available. Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were found following cold, snowy fronts. As usual, finches were a mixed bag. No species put in a large irruptive presence, but the numbers were just high enough to keep observers interested.

The weather forced some boreal/arctic species southward. Few observers will forget the historic cold of late January/early February. Yet the month of February finished 4 degrees above normal. This illustrates the roller coaster temperatures of the entire period, extreme cold followed by above-average warmth. In southern Illinois, the lake at Crab Orchard NWR froze at least four times. In recent years it has been only once or twice, if at all. The short duration cold snaps started in November and appeared to drive many marginal wintering species out of the state. December and January finished 1 to 2 degrees below normal. January had 10 to 60 % above-normal precipitation, which was mostly snow.

A special thanks is extended to all contributors to this report, who are listed here in full and by initials following each observation: Renee Baade (RBa), David Bohlen, Richard Biss, Ron Bradley (RBr), Terry Carter, Robert Chapel, Elizabeth Chato, Paul Clyne, Bob Danley, Myrna Deaton, Judy De Neal, Josh Engel, Carolyn Fields (CFs), Michelle Georgi (MGe), Brad Grover, Dave Gruver, Mary Beth Hallett (MHt), Jim Herkert (JHe), Cary Hillegonds (CHi), Larry Hood (LHd), Melvern Hoff (MHo), L. Barrie Hunt, David Johnson, Lee Johnson (LJo), Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Greg Lambeth, James Landing, Dennis Larson (Dln), Eric Lundquist (ELu), Walter Marcisz, John McDaniel (JMd), Cynthia McKee (CMc), John McKee (JMc), Keith McMullen, Massey Meents (MMc), Joe

Milosevich, Roy Morris (RMs), Dennis Ochmke, Jack Pomatto, Dale Pontius, Judy Pollock (JPo); John Purcell (JPu), Mark Sieffert (MSe), John Suchecki (JSu), Leonard Stanley, Alan Stokie (ASt), Eric Walters, Doris Westfall (DWe), Richard Whitton (RWh). Waterfowl surveys from Michelle Georgi (MGe) and Massey Meents (MMe) are aerial survey estimates.



Common Loon, 30 Dec. 1995. Braidwood, Will Co. Photo by Joe B. Milosevich. A loon was also observed here on 20 Dec. 1995 and 5 Jan. 1996.

Winter 1995-96 Field Notes

Common Loon
LD: 29 Dec.- 5 Jan., Braidwood (JM) - first Will Co winter record; 28 Jan., Dresden L (fide RB); 30 Dec., Spfld (DB).

Pied-billed Grebe
MC: 50, CONWR, 26 Dec. (BD); 25, Spfld, wintered (DB); 21, Will & Grundy Co's, 30 Dec. (JM). Others: Rock R (Winnebago Co), wintered (BG); 1 wintered, LCNP (CMc, JMc); 6 Jan. (2), Little Calumet R (Cook Co)(WM); 23 Dec., Skokie (EW); 2 Dec., Wauk (ASt).

Horned Grebe
MC: 50, Bald. L, 3 Jan. (DKa); 15, CONWR, 26 Dec. (BD). Others: 3, LCNP, 25 Feb. (CMc, JMc); 2, GLPSP/Dresden L, 28 Jan. (JM); Rock R (Winnebago Co), 11-20 Feb. (BG); Spfld, 25 Dec. (DB).

Double-crested Cormorant
MC: 6, Braidwood, 29 Dec. (JM); 3, Spfld, 26 Dec. (DB). LD: 6 Jan., L Decatur(MD).

Great Blue Heron
MC: 44, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM). Others: 9, Spfld, wintered (DB); 4, LCNP, 7 Jan. (CMc,JMc); 4, Lockport, 25 Dec.(CA); 1 wintered, Techny (Cook Co)(JL); 3, Fermi, 21 Jan. (JSu); 3, Bolingbrook (Will Co), 17 Dec. (WM); Kennekuk Park (Vermilion Co), 24 Jan. (DWe); Peoria L&D, 13 Jan. (LHd).

Black-crowned Night-Heron
MC: 5, Whistler Woods FP (Cook Co), 30 Dec. (WM). LD: 3 Dec. (imm.), Saline Co (JD).

Tundra Swan
MC: 8 (5 imm.), Chi (Meigs Field), 16 Dec. (EW,JE). Others: imm., Spfld, 5-24 Feb. (DB); 2 ad., Crane L (Mason Co),13 Jan.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

ad	= adult
Co (s)	= County(ies)
subad.	= subadult
CA	= Conservation Area
1st	= first winter plumage
FP	= Forest Preserve
2nd	= second winter
FWA	= Fish and Wildlife Area
3rd	= third winter plumage
IDNR	= Ill. Dept. of Natural Resources
mm.	= immature
INHS	= Ill. Natural History Survey
*	= documented
L	= Lake
resp.	= respectively
LD	= late departure
m.ob.	= many observers
L&D	= Lock & Dam
est.	= estimated
MC	= maximum count
NC	= Nature Center
NP	= Nature Preserve
NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge
R	= River
SA	= spring arrival
SF	= State Forest
SP	= State Park

Carl. L	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton & Bond Cos)
Chi	= Chicago's Lakefront Parks, excluding JP (Cook Co)
Clin.L	= Clinton Lake (De Witt Co)
CONWR	= Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co)
Fermi	= Fermilab (Batavia, Du Page Co)
GLPSP	= Goose Lake Prairie SP (Grundy Co) & HeideckeL
GLNTC	= Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)
IBSP	= Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
JP	= Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)
LCal	= Lake Calumet & vicinity (Cook Co)
LChau	= Lake Chatauqua NWR (Mason Co)
LCNP	= La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co)
LRen	= Lake Renwick (Will Co)
LWFP	= Lyon's Woods FP (Lake Co)
M.Arb	= Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)
MM	= McKee Marsh (Du Page Co)
MNTP	= Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co)
MPL&D	= Mel Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co)
Spfld	= Springfield (Sangamon Co)
UCCA	= Union County Conservation Area
Wauk	= Waukegan (Lake Co)
PWW	= Pratt Wayne's Woods Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)

A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date.
No number signifies single birds. Dates, counts or sites undrelined and bolded represent very early/late dates or counts unprecedented or extremely significant for the state or that region.

(RC et al); 8 Jan., Mississippi R (Madison Co) (DKa); 10 Dec., Lake Forest (fide RB).

Trumpeter Swan
MC: 7 imm. (unbanded), Crane L (Mason Co), 13 Jan. (RC et al). Others: imm., Buckhart (Sangamon Co), 2 Dec. & 3 Jan. (DB); 3 (with Wisconsin bands), Clin.L, 2 Dec. (MD).

Mute Swan
MC: 68, Wolf L (Cook Co), 27 Jan. (WM); 39, Kemper L (Lake Co), 18 Feb. (CFs); 21, Lake Villa (Lake Co), 3 Dec. (EW). Others: 8, JP, 10 Feb. (PC); 5, Spfld, wintered (DB); 2, Palatine, 29 Feb. (JMd); 2, Grundy Co, 30 Dec. (JM); Joliet, 15 Dec. (JM). Continues to increase.

Greater White-fronted Goose
MC: 300, Sangamon Co, 24 Feb. (DB- best #'s ever); 156, Jackson/Union Cos, 14 Jan. (BD); 51, Perry Co, 18 Dec. (DB, VK); 25, LChau, 17 Feb. (RC); 18, Bald. L, 22 Jan. (KM); 4, Winnebago Co, 26 Feb. (BG); 3, LCNP, 25 Feb. (CMc, JMc).

Snow Goose
Very large staging throughout Illinois. MC: 15,000, Harristown (Macon Co), 25 Feb. (MD); 10,000, Sangamon Co, 24 Feb. (DB); 6,000+, UCCA, 18 Feb. (BD); 4,500, Bald. L, 22 Jan. (KM); 900, Douglas Co, 24 Feb. (CMc, JMc). Others: 5, Ogden (Champaign Co), 21 Jan. (RC); 4, Fermi, 28 Jan. (JSu); 4, GLSP,

Canada Goose
MC: 295,700, southern Illinois, 20 Dec. (RWh). Others: 3,500, LCNP, 21 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 3,000, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); 908, JP, 4 Jan. (PC).

Wood Duck
3 wintered, Zion (EW); 3 wintered, Chi (Zoo) (EW, JPu). Others: 11 Dec. (4), Spfld (DB); female, Will Co, 30 Dec. (CA); 2 males, 21 Jan.- 25 Feb., Illini SP (CMc, JMc); 2 pair, Rockford, 5 Feb. (BG).

Green-winged Teal
MC: 12, LCNP, 28 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 7, Spfld, 5 Dec. (DB).

American Black Duck
MC: 200 (GLPSP) & 75 (Braidwood), 30 Dec. (JM); 100, LCNP, 21 Jan. (C & JMc). 'American Black Duck X Mallard': Dec. & Feb., Spfld (DB).

Mallard
MC: 186, 665, n. Illinois, 27 Dec. (MMe-aerial survey); 20,000, Clin.L, 10 Feb. (RC). 'Mallard X American Wigeon': 1 Jan., Sangamon Co (DB).

Northern Pintail
MC: 200, UCCA, 14 Jan. (BD). Others: 13, LCNP, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 8, Braidwood, 30 Dec. (JM); 3, Spfld, 8 Dec. (DB); 2, Rockford, 24 Dec. (BG); Champaign Co, 28 Jan. (RC).

American Black Duck, 15 Dec. 1995. Springfield, Sangamon Co. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

13 Jan. (CA); 2, LRen, 16 Dec. (JM); ad., JP, 18 Jan. (PC); imm. blue, period-4 Jan., JP (PC); ad., Bolingbrook (Will Co), 17 Dec. (JM).

Ross' Goose
6, Bald. L, 3 Jan. (KM).

Northern Shoveler
MC: 185, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 22 Jan. (KM); 100, Carbondale, 28 Dec. (BD); 21, Spfld, 10 Dec.-wintered (DB); 8, LRen, 16 Dec. (JM).

Gadwall
MC: 150, Spfld, 17 Dec.-wintered (DB); 95, Joliet, 15 Dec. (JM); 37, LCal, 16 Dec. (JL); 7, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 13 Jan. (KM); 3, LCNP, 21 Jan. (CMc, JMc).

American Wigeon
MC: 26, Wilmington, 30 Dec. (CA); 16, Spfld, 5 Dec.-wintered (DB); 12, Zion , wintered (EW); 5, LCNP, 21 Jan. (C & JMc); 3, Chi (Zoo), wintered (EW, JE).

Canvasback
MC: 9,650, Nauvoo, 11 Dec. (MGe). Others: 19, Braidwood, 30 Dec. (JM); 15, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 22 Jan. (KM); 10, Spfld, 1 Jan.-wintered (DB); 5, LCNP, 25 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 2, LCal, 30 Dec. & 13 Jan. (JL); 2, GLNTC, 8 Dec. (EW); male, JP, 26 Jan. (PC); Lockport, 23 Dec. (CA).

Redhead
MC: 7, JP, 8 Dec. (PC); 6, Chi (Little Calumet R), 30 Dec. (WM); 6, North Chicago (Lake Co), 1 Jan. (JSu); 3, LRen, 16 Dec. (WM); 2, GLPSP, 13 Jan. (CA); 2, Sang.L, 6 Jan. (DB); 2, Wilmington, 30 Dec. (CA); 2, LCNP, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc).

Ring-necked Duck
MC: 33, LCNP, 25 Feb. (CMc, JMc); 25, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 1 Jan. (KM); 12, Sang.L, 6 Jan.-wintered (DB); 9, LRen, 16 Dec. (JM); male, LCal, wintered (JL).

Greater Scaup
MC: 224, JP, 3 Dec. (PC). Others: 11, Zion , 1 Jan. (EW, JE); 9, Little Calumet R (Chi), 30 Dec. (WM); 2, GLPSP, 30 Dec. (JM); female, Spfld, 15 Dec. (DB). "Absent from usual L Michigan sites" (PC).

Lesser Scaup
MC: 300, Clin.L, 25 Feb. (RC); 175, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 25 Feb. (KM); 133, LCNP, 25 Feb. (CMc, JMc); 68, Chi (Little Calumet R), 30 Dec. (WM). Others: 9, Spfld, 17 Dec.-wintered (DB); 5, GLPSP, 30 Dec. (JM).

Harlequin Duck
18-19 Jan. (female), JP (*PC).

Oldsquaw
2 Dec. (imm.), O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (DKa); 3 Dec. (ad. male), Carl. L (DKa); 10 Dec. (2), Wauk (JMd); 16 Dec., Rend L (DK, MSe); 16-17 Dec., Spfld (DB); 17 Dec. (2), Clin.L (MD, RS); 23 Dec., Skokie (EW); 14 Jan. (male), JP (PC); 20 Jan., IBSP (ASt); 24 Feb., L Decatur (MD).

Surf Scoter
13 Dec., **Spfld** (DB).

White-winged Scoter
17 Dec. (3), **MPL&D** (DKa); 14 Jan. (male) & 11 Feb. (female), Zion (JL); 20 Jan. (female), IBSP (ASt); 25 Feb. (female), Clin.L (RC).

Common Goldeneye
MC: 8,985, n. Illinois, 27 Dec. (MMe-aerial survey); 5,000, Powerton L (Tazewell Co), 11 Dec. (1N1HS-MGe). Others: 720, Rend L, 20 Jan. (BD); 550, Spfld, 17 Dec. (DB); 430, Wilmette, 4 Dec. (EW); 371, JP, 16 Dec. (PC); 200, Clin.L, 25 Feb. (RC); 150, GLPSP, 30 Dec. (JM).

Barrow's Goldeneye
Lake Michigan shore (Lake Co) 20 Jan. (JMd)(see seasonal highlights).

Bufflehead
MC: 25, Winthrop Harbor, 1 Jan. (EW, JE); 11, Spfld, 1 Jan. (DB); 8, JP, 18 Jan. (PC); 7, GLPSP, 30 Dec. (JM); female, LCNP, 28 Jan. (CMc, JMc).

Hooded Merganser
MC: **57,** Will & Grundy Co's, 30 Dec. (JM); 34, Spfld, 17 Dec. (DB); 19, Wauk, 1 Jan. (RB, EW, JE); 9, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 6, Peabody Riverking SFWA, 22 Jan. (KM); 3, LCNP, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 3, Fermi, 14 Jan. (JSu); imm. male, JP, 3 Jan. (PC).

Common Merganser
MC: 7,000, Powerton L (Tazewell Co), 11 Dec. (MMe); 2,800, Will/Grundy Co's, 30 Dec. (JM); 2,500, LCNP, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 1,500, Clin.L, 25 Feb. (RC); large #'s wintered-LCal (JL).

Red-breasted Merganser
MC: 83, JP, 14 Jan. (PC). Others: small #'s wintered-LCal (JL); 2, GLPSP, 30 Dec. (JM); 3 Jan., Spfld (DB).

Ruddy Duck
MC: 38, LCal, 3 Dec. (JL); 37, L Michigan (s. Cook Co), 3 Dec. (ASt); 25, Spfld, 4 Dec.-some wintered (DB); 4, GLNTC, 8 Dec. (EW); 3, Joliet, 15 Dec. (JM); 10 Dec., LCNP (CMc, JMc).

Black Vulture
MC: 30+, Heron Pond (Johnson Co), 30 Dec. (DKa).

Turkey Vulture
LD: 30 Dec., PWW (*JP); 10 Jan., Bond Co (KM).

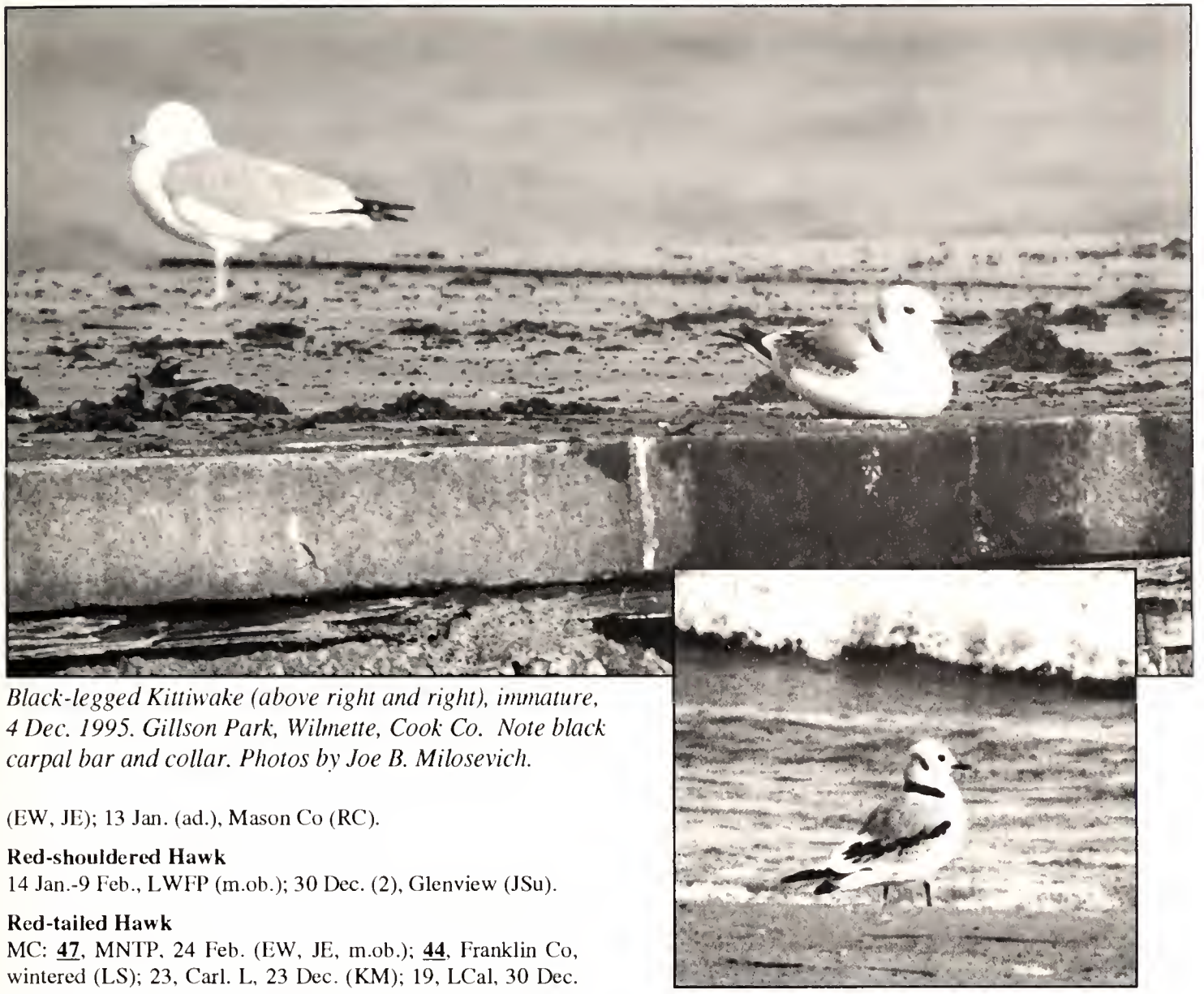
Bald Eagle
MC: **1,733** (1,035 adults, 574 immature, 124 unknown), Mississippi/Illinois R, late Jan. (JHe et al.) - 8% annual increase since 1987. Others: 100+, Mississippi R (Hancock Co), 10 Feb. (LHd); 60, Jersey Co, 7 Feb. (KM); 45, Illinois R (Peoria to Chatauqua) (RC); 9, Starved Rock L&D, 4 Feb. (CMc, JMc).

Northern Harrier
MC: 15, Franklin Co, wintered (LS); 13, Fayette Co, 13 Jan. (KM); 10, Madison Co, 19 Dec. (VK). Others: 4, Champaign Co, 28 Jan. (RC); 4, La Salle Co, 25 Feb. (CMc, JMc); 3, Fulton Co, wintered (LHd); 3, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 17 Feb. (JSu); 2, MNTP, wintered (EW); 2, McHenry Co, 7 Jan. (RBa); none wintered, Sangamon Co (DB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk
14 Dec., Vermilion Co (JS); 16 Dec., PWW (JSu); 16 Dec., MM (EW, JE); 26 Dec., Champaign Co (JS); 1 Jan., Wauk (EW, JE); 6 Jan. (2), Wauk (JL); 6 Feb. (3), Franklin Co (LS); 5-26 Feb., McHenry Co (RBa); 19 Feb., Evanston (fide EW); 2 in Dec., 3 in Jan., 1 in Feb., Sangamon Co (DB); Bushnell (McDonough Co), wintered (LHd); O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), wintered (KM); Palatine, wintered (CFs).

Cooper's Hawk
MC: 5, Franklin Co, period (LS). Others: 16 Dec. (2), PWW (JSu); 16 Dec. (2), MM (EW, JE); 6 Jan., La Salle Co (CMc, JMc); 20 Jan. (imm.), La Salle Co (CMc, JMc); 15 Feb. (ad.), Glenview (EW); 20 Feb. (2), Sangamon Co (DB); 25 & 29 Feb., se. Cook Co (WM); 2, McHenry Co, wintered (RBa); Danville, wintered (DWe); Palatine, wintered (CFs).

Northern Goshawk
2 Dec. (imm.), La Salle Co (CMc, JMc); 2 Dec. (imm.), Carl. L (DKa); 11 Dec. (imm.), Clin.L (RC); 14 & 17 Dec. (imm.), Sangamon Co (DB); 17 Dec. (imm.), Clin.L (MD); 1 Jan., IBSP



Black-legged Kittiwake (above right and right), immature, 4 Dec. 1995. Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook Co. Note black carpal bar and collar. Photos by Joe B. Milosevich.

(EW, JE); 13 Jan. (ad.), Mason Co (RC).

Red-shouldered Hawk
14 Jan.-9 Feb., LWFP (m.ob.); 30 Dec. (2), Glenview (JSu).

Red-tailed Hawk
MC: **47**, MNTP, 24 Feb. (EW, JE, m.ob.); **44**, Franklin Co, wintered (LS); 23, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 19, LCal, 30 Dec. (WM); 16, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); 11, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB). Others: "Harlan's": 16 Dec.- 4 Feb., Urbana (RC); wintered, UCCA (BD). "Krider's": 18 Dec., Max McGraw Wildlife Area (LHd). "Dark phase": 8 Feb., Franklin Co (LS); 17 Feb., McHenry Co (RBa). "Rufous phase": 16-17 Dec., Will Co (WM); 31 Dec., Williamson Co (LS).

Rough-legged Hawk
MC: 9, Du Page Co, 13 Jan. (JSu); 6, Saline Co, Dec. (JD); 6, MNTP, 24 Feb. (m.ob.); 4, Jackson Co, 23 Dec. (LS); 4, Matteson (Will Co), 4 Feb. (JL). Others: 2 singles (dark phase), Sangamon Co, 11 Dec. & 15 Feb. (DB); 2, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); dark phase, 1-13 Jan., GLPSP (CA); dark phase, Palatine, 27 Jan.- 20 Feb. (CFs); dark phase, McHenry Co, 17 Feb. (RBa).

Golden Eagle
3 Dec., **Middlefork FP** (Champaign Co) (RC); 10 Jan. (ad.), UCCA (BD-3+ different birds detected during winter; 14 & 15 Feb., Saline Co (JD).

American Kestrel
MC: 21, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM).

Merlin
16 Dec. (female), Mason Co (VK); 1 Jan. (**'richardsonii' form**), Vermilion Co (*MD); 10 Feb. (female), Rockford (BG, LJo, RMs); female, Jackson Co, **wintered** (BD).

Peregrine Falcon
17 Dec., **MPL&D** (DKa); 27 Dec., **Champaign Co** (JS); 3 Jan., Clinton Co (MSe); pair wintered, JP (PC); pair wintered, LCal (WM).

GYRFALCON
25 Feb., Clin.L (*RC).

Ring-necked Pheasant
MC: 16, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); 10, Sangamon Co, 16 Dec. (DB).

Wild Turkey
MC: 28, Sang.L, 28 Dec. (DB); 24, La Salle Co, 7 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 24, Vermilion Co, 24 Jan. (DWe); 2, MNTP, 24 Feb. (EW, JE).

Northern Bobwhite
MC: 18, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 15, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB - none in Jan./Feb.); 12, Braidwood, 30 Dec. (JM).

Virginia Rail
15-16 Dec., **Joliet** (JM).

American Coot
MC: 35, Sangamon Co, 6 Jan. (DB). Others: 4, LCNP, 10 Dec.

(C & JMc); 4, Cherry Valley (Winnebago Co), 27 Jan. (BG); 21 Jan., Fermi (JSu).

Killdeer
LD: 6 Jan., LChau (MD); 30 Dec., Spfld (DB); 23 Dec. (2), Carl. L (KM).

Dunlin
1-4 Dec., Chi (JPu).

Common Snipe
LD: 17 Dec., Will Co (AW); 3 Dec., Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (JSu).

Bonaparte's Gull
MC: 70, Wilmette, 4 Dec. (EW). LD: 13 Jan., Carl. L (KM); 6 Jan. (4), Spfld (DB); 25 Dec., LCNP (CMc, JMc).

MEW GULL
1 Dec., Carl. L (*DKa); 28 Jan. (ad.), Clin.L (*MD).

Ring-billed Gull
MC: 4,360, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 4,000, Sangamon Co, 5 Dec. (DB); 221, JP, 8 Dec. (very low #'s on L Michigan all winter - EW,PC).

Herring Gull
MC: 1,500, LCal, 6 Jan. (WM); 1,500, LCNP, 18 Feb. (CMc, JMc); 500, MPL&D, 3 Feb. (KM); 144, JP, 16 Jan. (PC- low #'s); 120, Sangamon Co, 29 Dec. (DB); 52, Rend L, 20 Jan. (BD).

Thayer's Gull
MC: 4 (1st, 2nd, 3rd, ad.), LCal, 6 Jan. (WM); 2 (1st's), MPL&D, 12 Feb. (DKa). Others: 5 Dec., Carl. L (DKa); 16 Dec. (ad.), L Decatur (MD); 16 Dec. (ad.), Fox R (Kane Co) (ASt); 29 Dec. (1st), Spfld (DB); 11 Feb., Winthrop Harbor (JL); 17 Feb., Peoria (RC).

Iceland Gull
3 Dec. ("kumliens" subad.), LCal (JL); 14 Jan. (ad.), **Starved Rock SP** (CMc, JMc); 3 Feb. (ad.), MPL&D (DKa); 5 Feb. (ad.), LCal (JL); 26 Feb. (1st), Spfld (DB).

Lesser Black-backed Gull
MC: **3** (different 1st's), MPL&D, 1-23 Dec. (DKa). Others: 5 Dec., Chi (JPu); 16 Dec. & 5 Feb. (3rd), Spfld (DB); 25 Dec. (ad.), Chi (ASt); 30 Dec. (2—2nd, ad.), LCal (WM); 20 Jan. (ad.), Rend L (BD); 5 Feb., Chi (JL); 18 Feb. (1st), Clin.L (RC); ad. wintered, MPL&D (DKa).

Glaucous Gull
MC: 11, LCal, 11 Feb. (GW) (see seasonal highlights); 5, LCal, 16 Dec. (JL). Others: 4 Dec. (2nd), L Decatur (MD); 8 Dec., Winthrop Harbor (EW); 19 Dec. (2), Chi (Meigs Field) (LHd); 24 Dec. (ad.), Wauk (ASt); 25 Dec., Chi (ASt); 13 Jan. (1st), MPL&D (DKa); 14 Jan. (2—ad.,1st) & 4 Feb. (ad.), Starved Rock SP (CMc, JMc); 15 Jan. (imm.), Evanston (EW); 20 Jan., JP (fide RB); 21 Jan. (ad., 1st), Carl. L (MSe); 28 Jan. (ad.), Clin.L (MD); 16 Feb. (1st), Wilmette (CFs); 18 Feb. (2nd), LCNP (C & JMc); 24 Feb. (2nd), L Decatur (MD).

Great Black-backed Gull
13 Jan. (1st) & 12 Feb. (2nd) , MPL&D (DKa); 15 Jan. (1st), Pekin (MD); 6 Feb. (1st), JP (PC);11-17 Feb. (2 ad.), LCal (GW,EW).

Black-legged Kittiwake
4 Dec. (1st), Wilmette (JM-photo); 17 Dec. (1st), **Clin.L** (RC); **2 Feb.-10 March** (1st), **MPL&D** (DKa). All 3 same bird?

Rock Dove
MC: 146, JP, 14 Jan. (PC).

Mourning Dove
MC: 110, Sangamon Co, 2 Dec. (DB); 104, Chi (Hyde Park), 9 Jan. (PC); 97, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 70, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 10 Feb. (JSu).

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: 11, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 8, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM).

Snowy Owl
1-3 Dec., Chi (Meigs Field) (GW, ASt); 1 Jan., JP (PC).

Barred Owl
16 Dec., PWW (JSu); 28 Jan., Ellisville (Fulton Co) (LHd); only singles, Sangamon Co (DB).

Long-eared Owl
MC: 8, Fults (Monroe Co), 17 Feb. (DKa); 7, Fermi, 7 Jan. (JSu); 6, Carl. L, 1 Jan. (DKa); 5, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 17 Dec. (AW); 3, MM, 16 Dec. (EW); 3, Potomac (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan. (MD); 3, MNTP, mid-Jan. (EW); 2, Pecatonica (Winnebago Co), 8 Jan. (BG); 2, Vermilion Co, 21 Jan. (RC); 13 Jan., Carl.L (KM).

Short-eared Owl
MC: **20+,** Franklin Co, 10 Dec. (LS); **11**, Glenview, 12 Feb. (EW) but 5 present since Dec. and at least 7 from 20 Jan.-17 Feb. (DJ,EW); 8, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 8 Dec. (JSu); 8, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (DKa); 8 (but 6 on 7 Jan.), Glacial Park (McHenry Co), 14 Jan. (ASt,RBa); 3, La Salle Co, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 2, New Athens (St. Clair Co), wintered (DKa); 2, Palatine, 6 Feb. (CFs); 14 Dec.-2 Jan., Decatur (MD); 20 Jan., Coles Co (RBr); 28 Jan., Rantoul (RC); 25 Feb., Kinmundy (KM).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
14 Dec., **Chi** (heart of city in X-mas tree lot! -fide EW); wintered (but 2 on 27 Jan.), Allerton Park (Piatt Co) (MD,RC).

Belted Kingfisher
MC: 4, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB). Others: 7 Dec., JP (PC); 30 Dec. (2), Glenview (JSu).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
MC: 16, Carl.L, 23 Dec. (KM); 10, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
4 Dec. (2), Winnebago Co (BG); 4 Dec. (2), Sangamon Co (DB); 13 Dec.- 7 Feb., Bartlett (Cook Co) (JP); 22 Dec., O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KM); 30 Dec., Lake Forest (JSu); 7 Jan., Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (DKa); wintered, Ryerson CA (EW).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 40, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); 19, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 12, JP, period (PC).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 8, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM); 5, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu).

Northern Flicker
MC: 13, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB); 10, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM). Others: 3 wintered, MNTP (EW, m.ob.); 21 Jan., Fermi (JSu).

Pileated Woodpecker
2 Dec. (2), Sangamon Co (DB); 30 Dec., Ryerson CA (ASt); 31 Jan. (2), Vermilion Co (JS); 9 Feb., Shirland (Winnebago Co) (BG); 10 Feb., SRSP (C & JMc).

Eastern Phoebe
7 Jan., Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (DKa).

Horned Lark
MC: 402, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 323, Jackson Co, 8 Jan. (BD); 300+, Vermilion Co, 24 Jan. (DWe).

Blue Jay
MC: 78, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM); 55, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB).

American Crow
MC: 10,000, Beardstown (Cass/Schuyler Co's), 13 Jan. (RC); 7,500, Rantoul (Champaign Co), 28 Jan. (RC). Others: 500, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan. (DB); 313, Chi, 15 Feb. (WM). Small 100 size roosts reported in various localities.

Bohemian Waxwing, 19 Dec. 1995. Ravinia Train Station, Highland Park, Lake Co. Photo by David B. Johnson.

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 101, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu).

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 18, Sangamon Co, 2 Dec. (DB); 2, Palos FP, 27 Feb. (JL).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 20, Urbana, 2 Dec. (RC); 20+, LWFP, 20 Jan. (RC). Others: 5, M.Arb, wintered (EW); 5, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); 4, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM); 1 Jan., Carl. L (DKa); 14 Jan., Green River C.A. (CMc,JMc).

Brown Creeper
MC: 13, Wilmington, 30 Dec. (CA); 9, Sangamon Co, 2 Dec. (DB); 5, Mallard Lake FP (Du Page Co), 17 Feb. (JP).

Carolina Wren
MC: 22, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM); 13, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB). Others: 16 Dec., Lockport (JM); 1-5 Jan., GLNTC (RB,EW); 14 Jan. (2), McDonough Co (LHd); 30 Jan., Danville (MD); 21-25 Feb., La Salle Co (CMc, JMc); 24 Feb., Des Plaines CA (EW,JE).

Winter Wren
16 Dec., MM (EW); 30 Dec., n. Cook Co (ASt); 30 Dec., Ryerson CA (Lake Co) (ASt); 3 & 13 Jan. (2 singles), Winnebago Co (BG); 1 or 2 wintered, Sangamon Co (DB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet
MC: 36, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM). Others: 6, Sangamon Co, 14 Dec. (DB); 21 Jan., Illini SP (CMc, JMc)s.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
LD: 14 Dec., Spfld (DB). Other: 15 Jan., UCCA (DKa, MSe).

Eastern Bluebird
MC: 13, Sangamon Co, 7 Dec. (DB); 5, M.Arb, 23 Nov.- wintered (EW-photo); 3, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 14 Jan. (LHd).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE
12 Nov.-21 Jan., LWFP (*EW, *m.ob.-photo/video) (see seasonal highlights); 17 Nov.- 11 Jan., Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co) (RMs et al).

Hermit Thrush
2 Dec. (2), JP (PC, DP); 2 Dec., Clin.L (MD); 8 & 12 Dec., Sangamon Co (DB); 16 Dec., MM (EW, JE); 16 Dec., Urbana (RC); 16 Dec., Crabtree NC (CFs); 2 Jan., Mallard Lake FP (Du Page Co) (JP); 1 Feb., Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co) (BG).

American Robin
MC: 335, Techny (Cook Co), 20 Jan. (EW).

VARIED THRUSH
17 Dec.-7 Jan., McHenry Co (Rba,m.ob.) (see seasonal highlights).

Northern Mockingbird
MC: 7, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM); 3, Sangamon Co, 1 Jan. (DB). Other: 16-24 Feb., MNTP (EW, m.ob.).

Brown Thrasher
6 Dec., Sangamon Co (DB); 7 Jan. (3), Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (DKa).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING
17 Dec. (4) & 19 Dec. (3), Highland Park (Train Station) (ELu; video).

Cedar Waxwing
MC: 100+, Deer Grove FP (Cook Co), 18 Dec. (CFs, TC); 100, Urbana, 11 Feb. (RC); 75, Fern Clyffe SP, 12 Jan. (BD); 50, Spfld, 26 Dec. (DB).

Northern Shrike
Another invasion year-biggest on record; 3 Dec., Rantoul (Champaign Co) (RC); 5 & 31 Dec. (ad.), Buckhart (DB); 8 Dec.-28 Jan., IBSP (EW); 15 Dec., Deer Grove FP (Cook Co) (CFs); 16 Dec., PWW (JSu); 16 Dec., West Chicago Prairie (Du Page Co) (MHo); 16 Dec. (imm.), MM (EW, m.ob.); 16 Dec., M.Arb (fide EW); 16 Dec., Joliet (JM); 17 Dec., Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co) (DG); 30 Dec.-period, Clin.L (RC); 30 Dec.-20 Jan., Techny (Cook Co) (RB, EW, m.ob.); 31 Dec., Bureau Co

Eastern Bluebird, 9 Feb. 1996, Morton Arboretum, DuPage Co. Five bluebirds spent the winter here. Photo by Eric Walters.

(CMc, JMc); 5 Jan., Braidwood (JM); 6 Jan., Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (JSu); 11-12 Jan., Evanston (EW-photo); 13 Jan., GLPSP (CA); 13 Jan.- 16 Feb., MNTP (EW, m.ob.); 14 Jan., Wolf L (Cook Co) (WM); 19 Jan., Glencoe (CFs); 1 Jan.-28 Jan., LWFP (m.ob.); 5 Feb., Evanston (JPo); 18 Feb., SRSP (C & JMc); imm., JP, wintered (PC). Many other sightings not sent in.

Loggerhead Shrike
MC: 3, Franklin Co, wintered (LS); 2, south Mason Co, 16 Dec. (VK). LD: Sangamon Co, 22 Dec. (DB).

European Starling
MC: 10,000, Urbana (U of I campus), Dec.-Feb. (RC); 3,000, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 16 Dec. (WM).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER
16 Dec., Rend L (DKa).

Yellow-rumped Warbler
MC: 8, Decatur, 16 Dec. (MD); 7, Sangamon Co, 31 Dec. (DB); 5, Libertyville, 1 Jan. (ASt). Others: 16 Dec. & 14 Jan., Urbana (RC); 31 Dec., Putnam Co (CMc, JMc); 27 Jan., Allerton Park (Piatt Co) (RC).

Pine Warbler
16 Dec., Rend L (DKa).

Northern Cardinal
MC: 225, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM).

Rufous-sided Towhee
MC: 4, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 23 Dec. (DKa).

SPOTTED TOWHEE
30 Dec., Braidwood (JM).

American Tree Sparrow
MC: 300, SRSP, 21 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 285, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); **230**, Evanston, 28 Jan. (JE).

Field Sparrow
MC: 12, Pulaski Co, 19 Feb. (KM); 6, Saline Co, 24 Feb. (JD). Others: 16 Dec.-20 Feb., Urbana (RC); 17 Dec. (2), Spfld (DB).

Savannah Sparrow
MC: 4, LCNP, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 3, CONWR, 15 Jan. (DKa, MSe); 2, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM). Others: 5 Dec., Sangamon Co (DB); 16 Dec., Urbana (GL, RC).

Le Conte's Sparrow
15 Jan., CONWR (DKa, MSe).

Fox Sparrow
MC: 16, Saline Co, 26 Feb. (JD); 10, Franklin Co, 26 Feb. (LS). Others: 16 Dec.- 11 Feb., Urbana (RC, MHt); 17 Dec., Sangamon Co (DB); 30 Dec. (2), LCal (WM); 7 Jan.-28 Feb., Table Grove (Fulton Co) (KM); 18 Jan., Klehm Arboretum (BG).

Song Sparrow
MC: 37, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM); 30, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB); 25, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu).

Swamp Sparrow
MC: 40, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu); 24, Rend L, 16 Dec. (KM).

White-throated Sparrow
MC: 60+, Winnebago Co, wintered (BG).

White-crowned Sparrow
MC: 30+, LCal, wintered (JL); 15, Wilmington, 30 Dec. (CA); 12, Franklin Co, 26 Feb. (LS).

Harris' Sparrow
21 Nov.-25+ Dec. (imm.), **Nelson Lake Marsh** (Kane Co) (DLn).

Dark-eyed Junco
MC: 171, Carl. L, 23 Dec. (KM); 120, Sangamon Co, 17 Dec. (DB). Others: 92, PWW, 16 Dec. (JSu). 16, JP, 26 Jan. (PC).

Lapland Longspur
MC: 3,000, Champaign Co, 28 Jan. (RC et al); 1,200, Jackson Co, 14 Jan. (BD); 500+, Carl. L, 1 Jan. (DKa); 150, Sangamon Co, 18 Feb. (DB); 25, LCNP, 10 Dec. (CMc, JMc).

Snow Bunting
MC: 325, Bureau Co, 14 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 100, nw. Will Co., 28 Jan. (fide RB); 94, LCNP, 25 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 50, Evanston, 28 Jan. (fide EW); 40, Techny (Cook Co), 30 Dec. (RB); 22, West Chicago (Du Page Co), 20 Jan. (JSu). Others: 17 Dec. (3), IBSP (ASt); 7 Jan., Johnson Co (DKa); 7 Jan., Cisco (Piatt Co) (MD); 8 Jan., Jackson Co (BD); 15 Jan., Clin.L (RC); 21 Jan. (2), Chi (ASt); 31 Jan., McHenry Co (RBa).

Red-winged Blackbird
MC: 50,000, Spfld, 27 Feb. (DB). LD: 33, MM, 16 Dec. (EW).

Eastern Meadowlark
MC: **151**, Fayette Co, 23 Dec. (KM). Others: 17 Dec. (3), Clin.L (RC); 20 Jan. (4), PWW (JSu); 28 Jan. (2), GLPSP (ASt).

Yellow-headed Blackbird
17 & 18 Jan., Roscoe (Winnebago Co) (ESt).

Rusty Blackbird
MC: 300, Spfld, 6 Feb. (DB); 25, Volo Bog (Lake Co), 3 Dec. (EW,JE). Others: 1 Dec., McHenry Co (RBa); 16 Dec., Lockport (JM); 31 Dec., Bureau Co (CMc, JMc).

Brewer's Blackbird
LD: 16 Dec., Decatur (MD).

Common Grackle
MC: 20,000, Spfld, 27 Feb. (DB).

Brown-headed Cowbird
MC: 100, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 15 Jan. (KM); 21, Lake Co, 31 Jan. (RBa).

PINE GROSBEAK
8-10 (feeding on elm buds), Pecatonica (Winnebago Co), 26 Feb. (fide BG).

Purple Finch
MC: 6, La Salle Co, 18 Feb. (CMc, JMc); 5, Table Grove (Fulton Co), 6 Jan. (KM); 2 wintered, Crabtree N.C. (ASt); 19 Feb., Sangamon Co (DB).

House Finch
MC: 80, Klehm Arboretum (Winnebago Co), 1 Jan. (BG); 60, Salt Creek (Cook Co), 6 Feb. (CFs); 50, Pratt Wayne Woods (Du Page Co), 16 Dec. (JSu).

White-winged Crossbill
10, LWFP, 18 Feb. (ASt) with 2-4 present 14 Jan.-19 Feb. (m.ob.); 6 Dec. & 6 Feb. (imm. male), Sangamon Co (DB).

Common Redpoll
MC: 30, Lockport, 16 Dec. (CA); 18, Naperville, 14 Jan. (JSu); 16, Glenview, 28 Jan. (fide RB); 11, LCNP, 25 Dec. (CMc, JMc); 7, JP, 15 Dec. (PC); 6, Crabtree N.C., 10 Feb. (JMd); 4, Potomac (Vermilion Co), 1 Jan. (MD); 3, Clin.L, 2 Dec. (MD); 2, Evanston, 2 Dec. (EW); single-3 times during period, Sangamon Co (DB).

Ringed Turtle-Dove, 1 Dec. 1995. Joliet, Will Co. Photo by Dennis Oehmke.

Pine Siskin
MC: 50, Bolingbrook, 17 Dec. (WM); 40, M.Arb, 9 Feb. (EW); 30, Libertyville, 1 Jan. (ASt); 14, SRSP, 21 Jan. (CMc, JMc); 11, Carl. L, 1 Jan. (DKa); "very common in Winnebago Co" (BG).

American Goldfinch
MC: 200, Sangamon Co, 1 Feb. (DB); 80, Glenview, 30 Dec. (JSu); 41, JP, 8 Feb. (PC).

Evening Grosbeak
MC: 125, Saline Co, 30 Jan. (JD). Others: 3 Dec. (female), Ottawa (La Salle Co) (CMc, JMc); 10 Dec. (4), Coles Co (BH); 16 Dec. (2), Rend L (DKa, MSe); 20 Dec.-into spring, Evanston (EW, m.ob.-photos)-first overwintering record in Chi area in over a decade.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 200, Mason Co (State Tree Nursery), 6 Jan. (MD). Others: 20, Spfld, 11 Dec. (DB).

House Sparrow
MC: 162, PWW, 16 Dec. (Jsu).

EXOTICS
Ringed Turtle-Dove
1Dec., Joliet (DO).

Evening Grosbeak, 13 Jan. 1996. Evanston, Cook Co. Photo by Eric Walters.

—Robert Danley
2201 Clay St.
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Send seasonal reports to:

Fall Migration - (1 August - 30 November)
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306 1/2 West California , Urbana, IL 61801

Winter Season - (1 December - 28 February)
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The Northern Shrike staged a major invasion in Illinois during the winter of 1995/1996, and was observed on 19 Christmas Bird Counts. Drawing by Brian K. Willis.